Creator of *Venus vs. Virus* and *Haridama: Magic Cram School*

Amefurashi

THE RAIN GODDESS

2

ATSUSHI SUZUMI

AMEFURASHI

The Rain Goddess

2

Atsushi Suzumi

Translated and adapted by
Elina Ishikawa

Lettered by
North Market Street Graphics

KC
KODANSHA
COMICS

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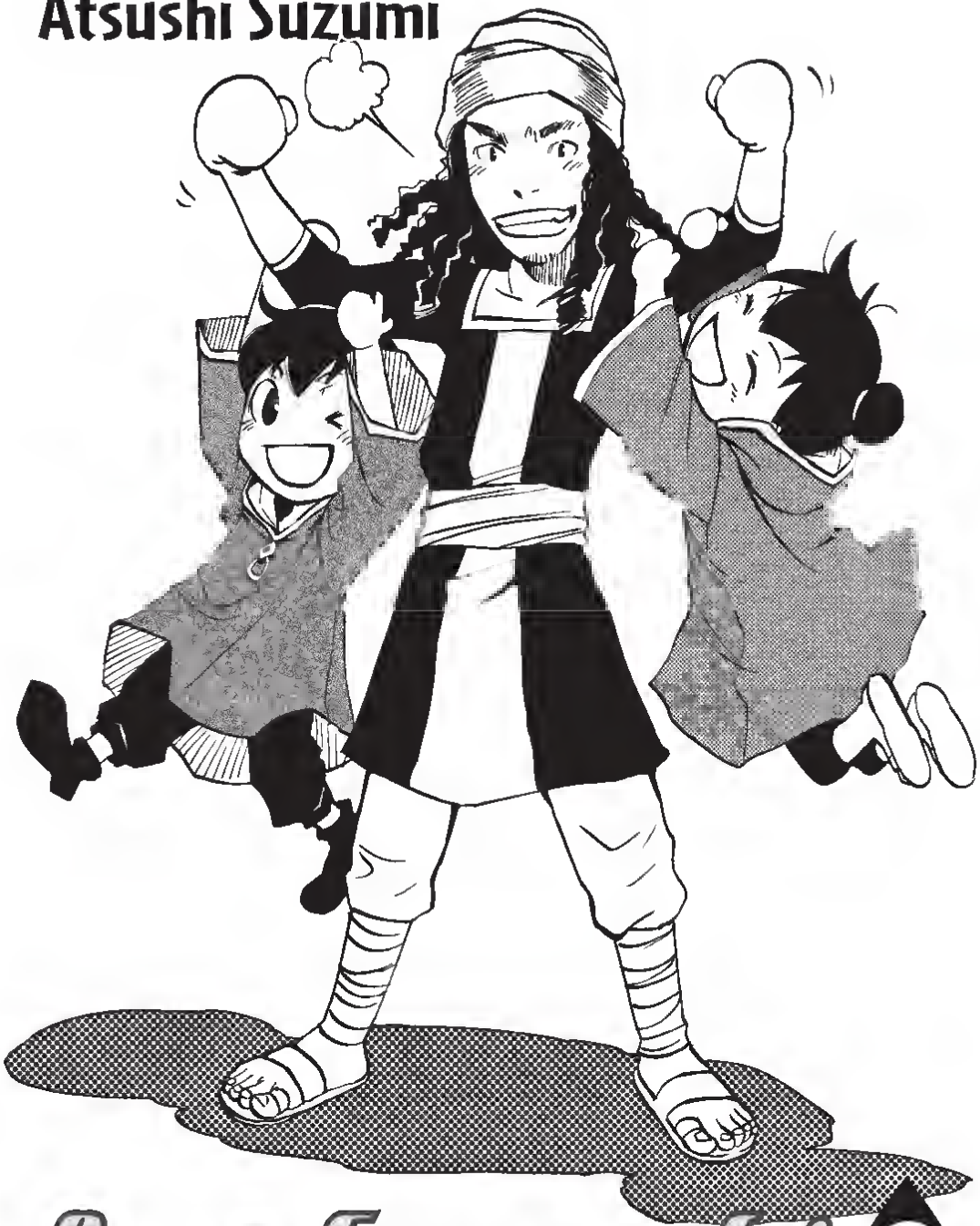
Atsushi Suzumi

It seems to often rain when I'm working on storyboards or final drafts for *Amefurashi*. I like being at home on rainy days even though it dampens my manga.

Atsushi Suzumi



Amefurashi 2

The Rain Goddess

Ciel
An amefurashi who stole the power core from Sora's nimbus tree. She seems to have an ulterior motive.
Daryl
Gimmy's and Mil's and Mel's guardian. He loves to travel and has a soft spot for attractive women.
Sora
She is an amefurashi–a deity who holds the mysterious power to bring rain. She has lost her magic ever since Ciel stole her power core.
Mil and Mel
Gimmy's twin brother and sister. They're pranksters. The boy (left) is Mil and the girl (right) is Mel.

Amefurashi: Cast of Characters, and The Story So Far

An amefurashi–a mysterious rain goddess–lives near my desert village. One day, my little twin siblings were accidentally placed on her altar, and I rushed there to get them back. But I instead found a whip-cracking girl named Sora. Believe it or not, *she's* the amefurashi!

Having lived in the nimbus tree for so long, Sora doesn't know much about the outside world. As I taught her about my village, we became good friends.

Some time later, another amefurashi named Ciel invaded Sora's tree and stole its core–the source of Sora's power. In order to get back her power, we went on a search for Ciel.

Gimmy
A boy from Sora's village. He is clever and loyal. He sets out with Sora to recover the power core and restore his village.

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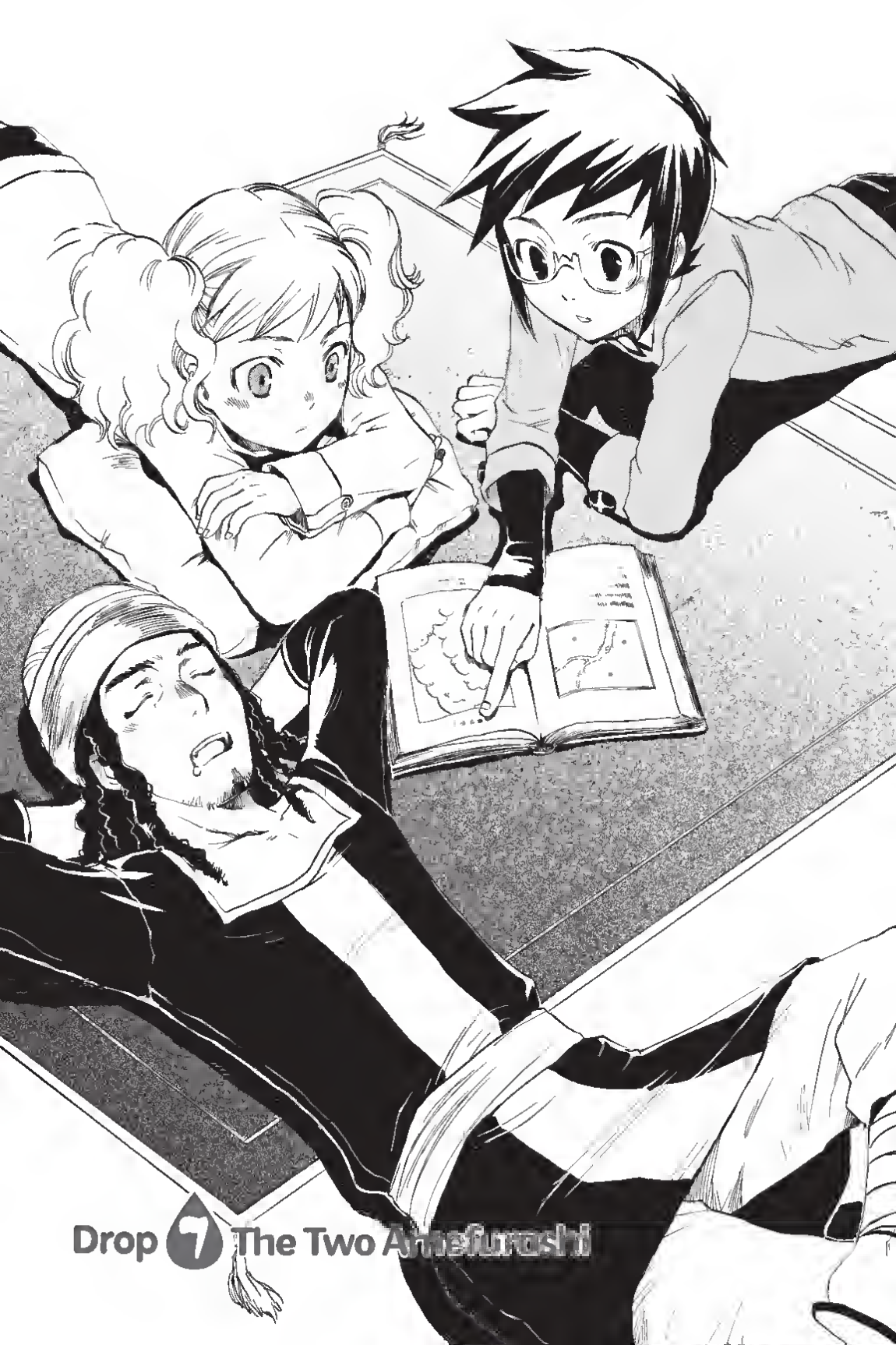
ヒュオオオ…
WHOOSH
THIS WIND...
IT WON'T DIE DOWN.
HOW ABOUT A BREAK, GIMMY?
THAT'S OKAY.
WE NEED TO HURRY AND GET TO THE FESTIVAL.
.....
WHOOSH
WHOOSH
LOOK.
THERE IT IS.
I GUESS WE HAVE NO CHOICE.
HEY.
YOU'RE NOT USED TO TRAVELING. DON'T KILL YOURSELF.

KUR, THE LARGEST DESERT TOWN IN THIS AREA...
...AND ITS GUARDIAN NIMBUS TREE!



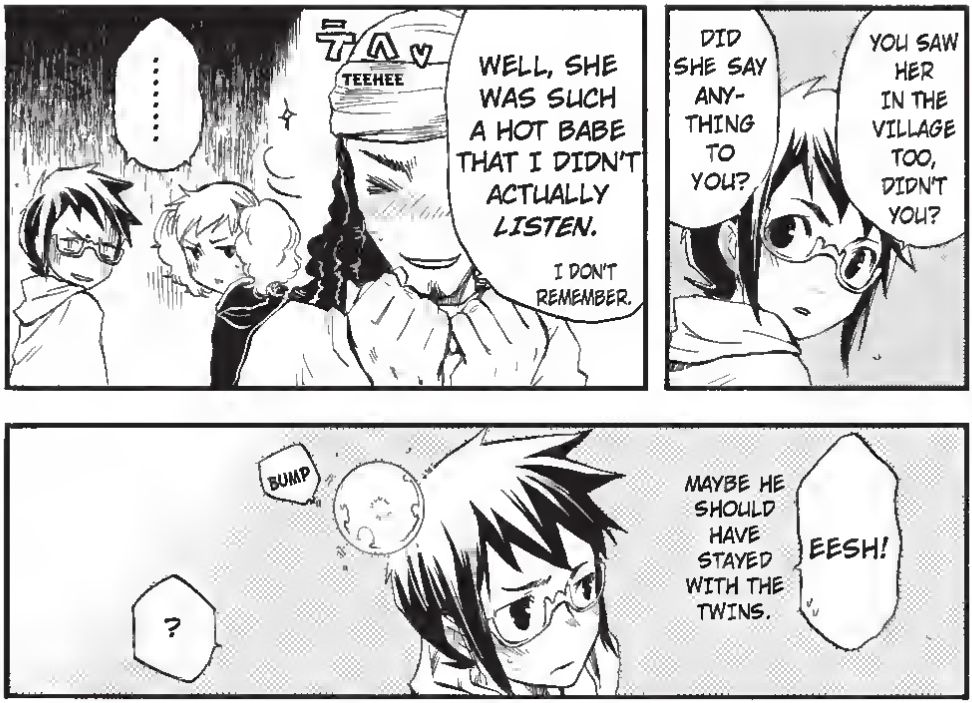
Drop 7 The Two Amefurashi

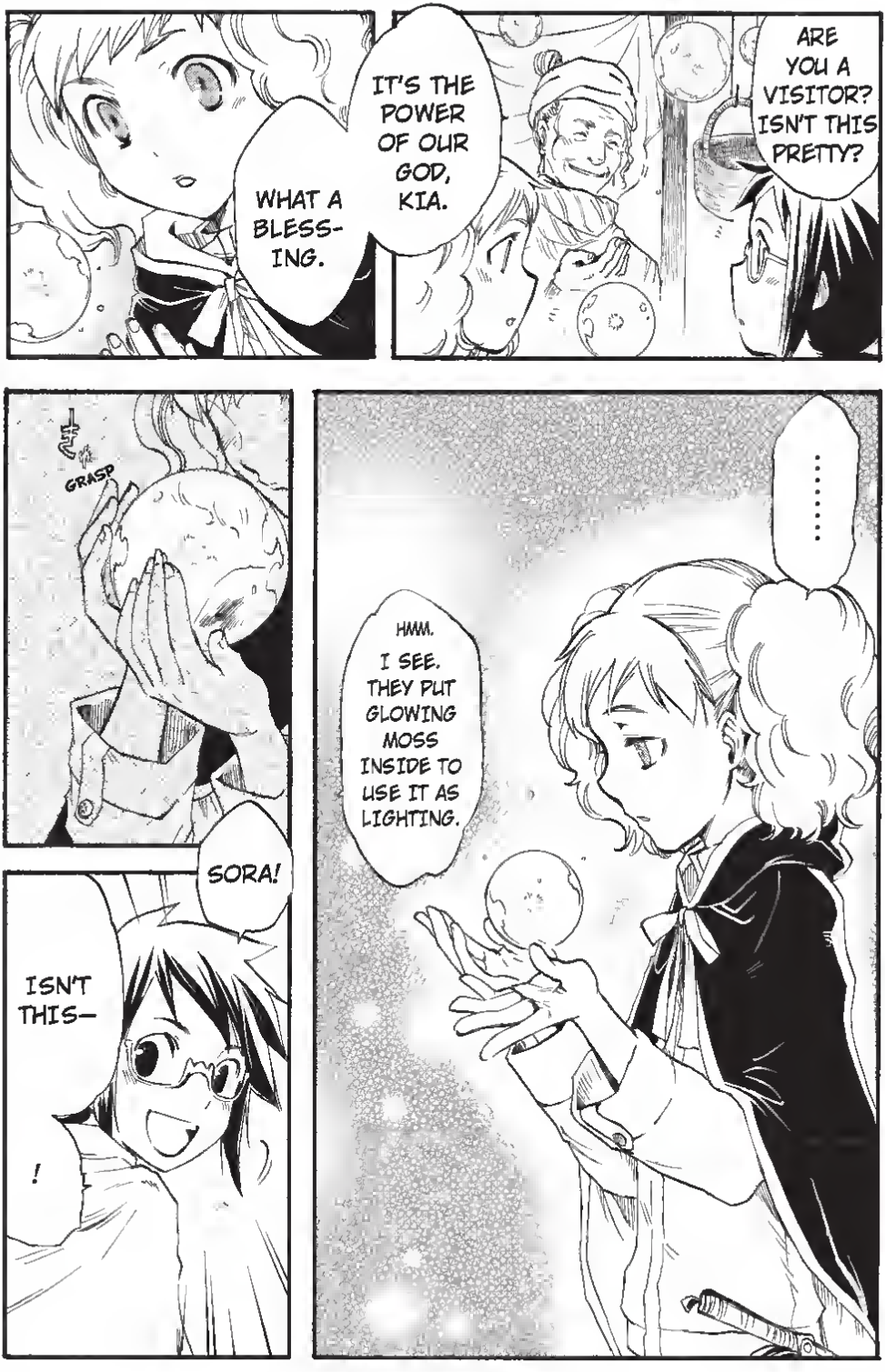
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
BUSTLE
WOW!
IT'S FULL OF PEOPLE.

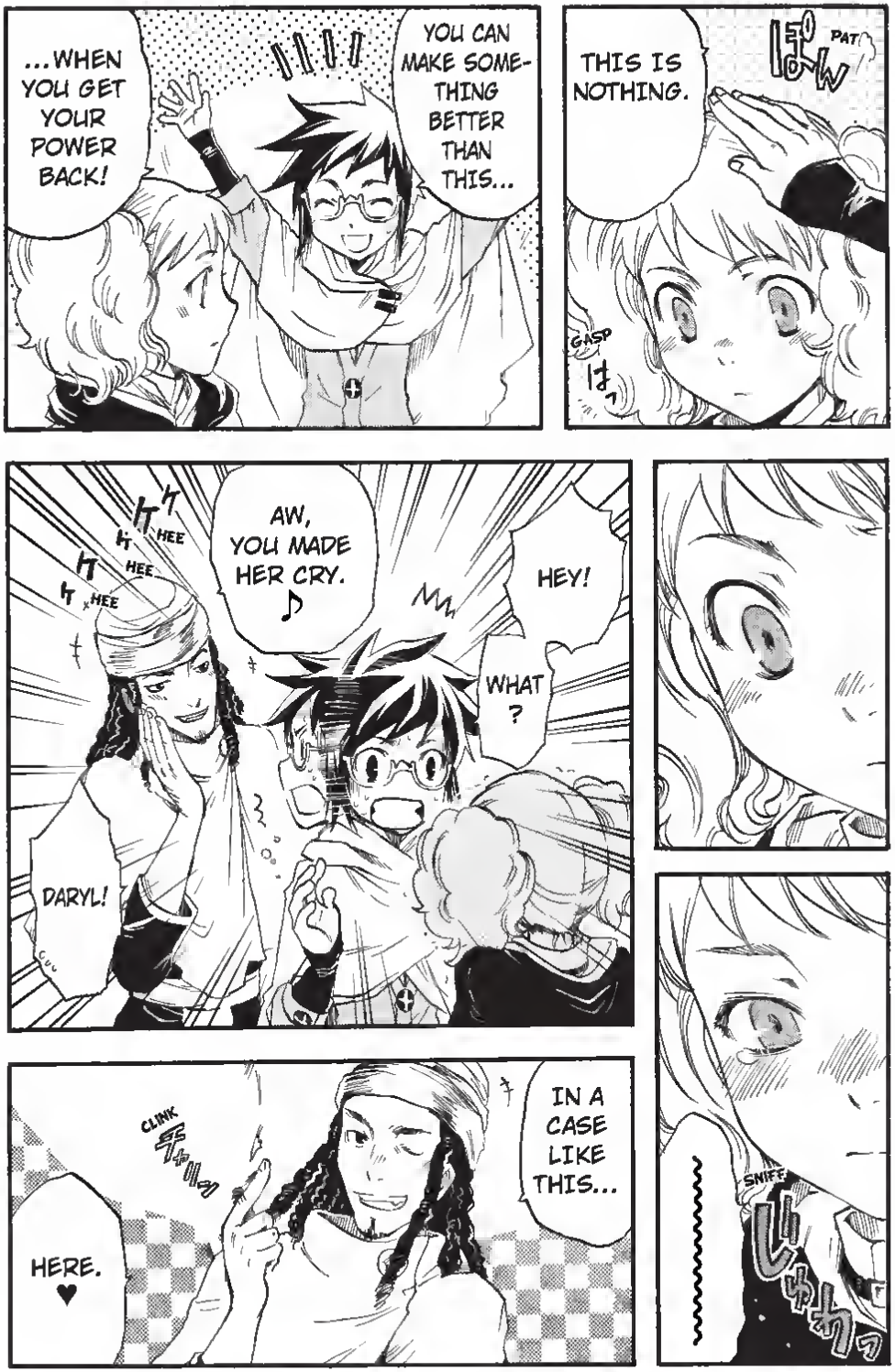
...THE AMEFURASHI OF THIS LAND!
IT'S OUR BEST CHANCE TO MEET...
GLARE

YEAH.
TOMORROW IS THE ANNUAL AMEFURASHI ADVENT FESTIVAL.

CIEL THE AMEFURASHI STOLE THE POWER CORE FROM OUR TREE...
...NOW IT'S LOST ITS POWER, AND OUR VILLAGE IS SUFFERING.
WE HAVE TO GET...
...SOME CLUES ABOUT CIEL!
.....
CLENCH
WE SET OUT ON A JOURNEY TO GET BACK THE CORE...
...WITH SORA THE AMEFURASHI WHO LOST HER POWER AS WELL.
WE LEFT THE TWINS WITH THE VILLAGERS WHO WERE ON THEIR WAY WEST...
...AND CHECKED OUT OUR NEIGH-BORING VILLAGE.
BUT IT SEEMS TO HAVE JUST SUFFERED SIMILAR DAMAGE.
CIEL, HUH?


.....
テヘペ
TEEHEE
WELL, SHE WAS SUCH A HOT BABE THAT I DIDN'T ACTUALLY LISTEN.
I DON'T REMEMBER.
DID SHE SAY ANY-THING TO YOU?
YOU SAW HER IN THE VILLAGE TOO, DIDN'T YOU?
BUMP
?
MAYBE HE SHOULD HAVE STAYED WITH THE TWINS.
EESH!
HUH?
IT'S A...
...NIMBUS BUBBLE!


WHAT A BLESS-ING.
IT'S THE POWER OF OUR GOD, KIA.
ARE YOU A VISITOR? ISN'T THIS PRETTY?
GRASP
SORA!
ISN'T THIS—
!
HMM. I SEE. THEY PUT GLOWING MOSS INSIDE TO USE IT AS LIGHTING.
.....


...WHEN YOU GET YOUR POWER BACK!
YOU CAN MAKE SOMETHING BETTER THAN THIS...
THIS IS NOTHING.
PAT
GASP
AW, YOU MADE HER CRY. ♪
HEE HEE HEE
HEY!
WHAT?
DARYL!
CLUU
IN A CASE LIKE THIS...
CLINK
HERE. ♥
SNIFF

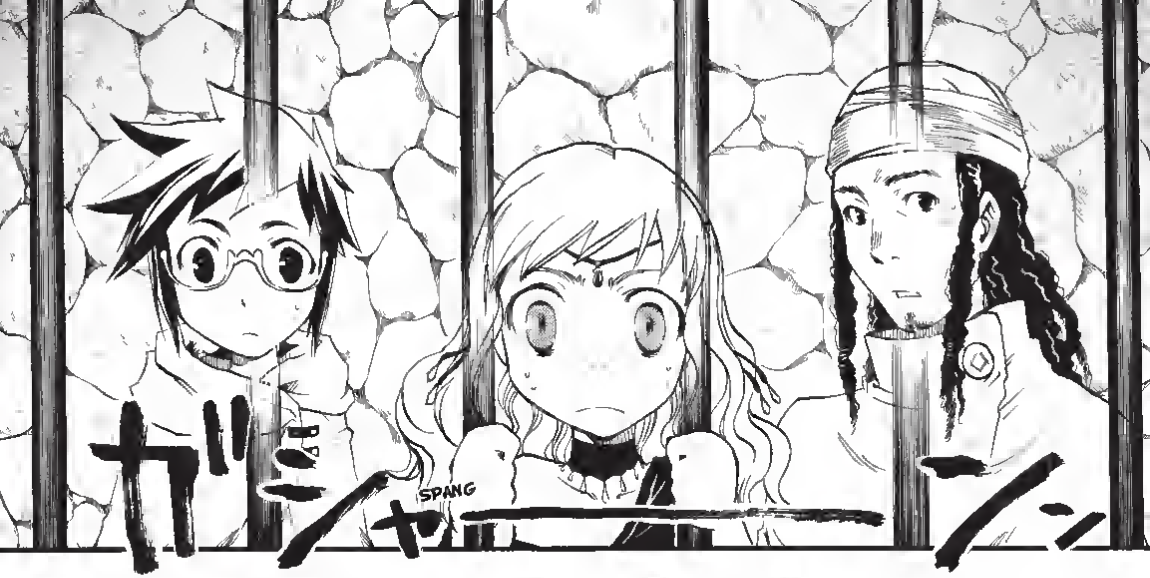
SHE'S GOING TO MEET THE VILLAGE AMEFU-RASHI.
DRESS HER UP APPROPRIATELY FOR THE OCCASION.
!
HUH?
USE THIS TO HAVE SOMEONE MAKE HER AN OUTFIT.
I'M GETTING A DRINK.
?
DARYL...
BWA HA HA
KEEP THAT IN MIND, LIFE NOVICE!
BWA HA HA
SWEETS OR PRETTY CLOTHES MAKE GIRLS STOP CRYING.
?
?

VOILÀ!
SHUK
HOW'S THIS?
HUH?
SORA?
HEY!
BLUSH
WHAT'S WITH THAT FACE? YOU CAN LAUGH AT ME IF I LOOK FUNNY!
EXCUSE ME!
AW, AW, AW!
SMASH

WE REGAINED OUR COMPOSURE AFTER THAT...
...AND WENT TO A MANSION WITH AN ALTAR...
...ON THE DAY OF THE ADVENT FESTIVAL.
SCUFF
MM?
ZAPF
WE WOULD LIKE TO MEET THE AMEFURASHI.
ARE YOU VISITORS?
THIS IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC...
YOU INSOLENT MEN!

FLAP
I AM THE REIGNING AMEFURASHI OF THE SOUTHERN REGION.
I HAVE COME TO SPEAK TO MY COMPATRIOT IN THIS REGION.
YOU MUST...
...LET US PASS.

.....
?!
A TRAV-ELING AMEFU-RASHI?
YOU MAY ENTER.
CREAK
ALL RIGHT.
イイ
MY HEART CAN'T TAKE THIS.
SCUFF
HA! THAT WAS EASY.
SCUFF
WHAT A BLUFF.
I FEAR FOR OUR FUTURE.
CREAK


SPANG

I GUESS SHE WASN'T SEXY ENOUGH.
MUTTER
GLARE

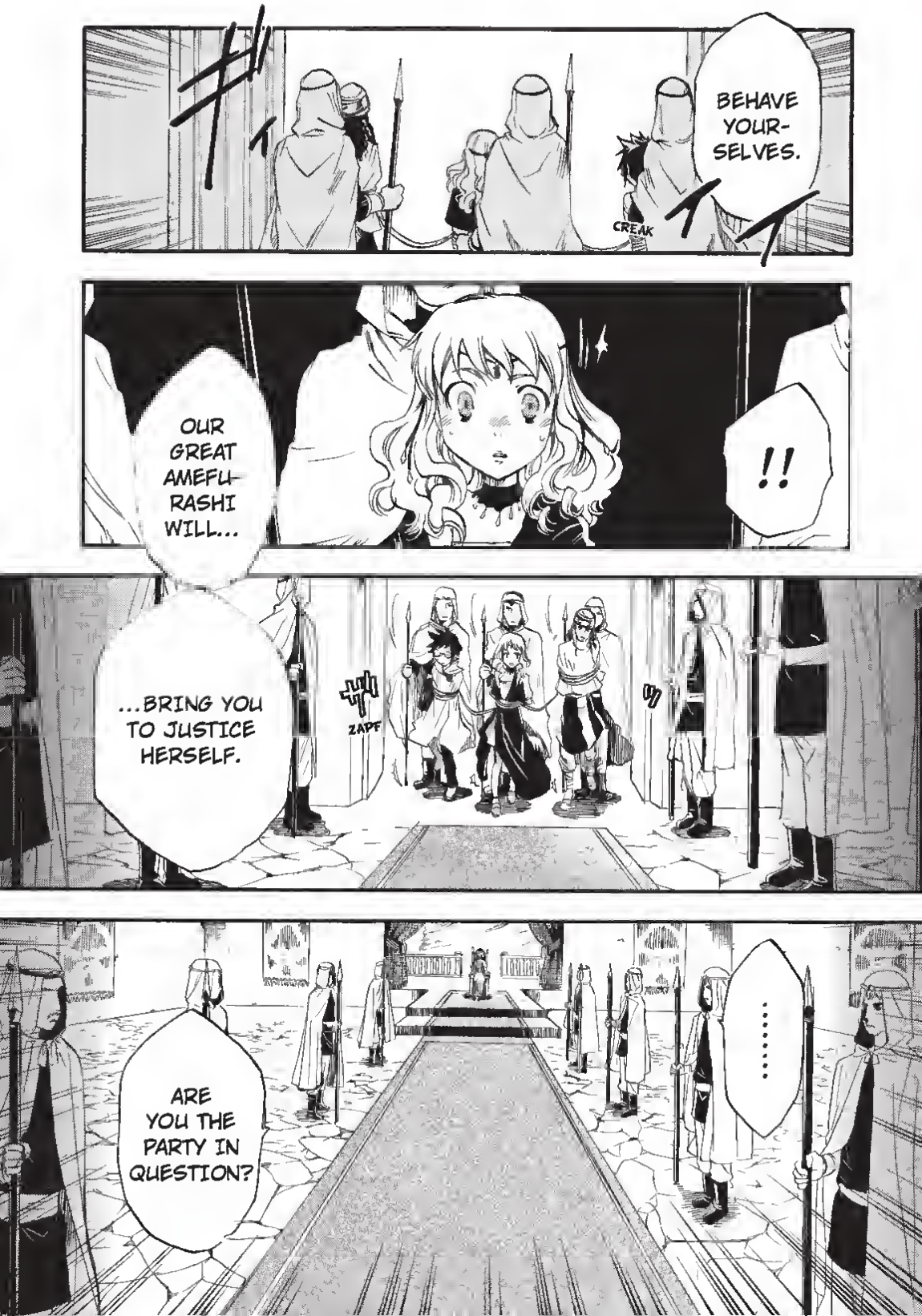
HEY, WHY IS THIS HAPPEN-ING?
WE DIDN'T STEAL ANYTHING!
YEAH.
NO WONDER THEY WERE BEING SO EASY ON US.

WE HAVE CAPTURED A GIRL CLAIMING TO BE AN AMEFURASHI AND HER FOLLOWERS...
...AS YOU WISHED.

WAIT!
I GIVE UP!
WHY, YOU GOATEE!
RAH

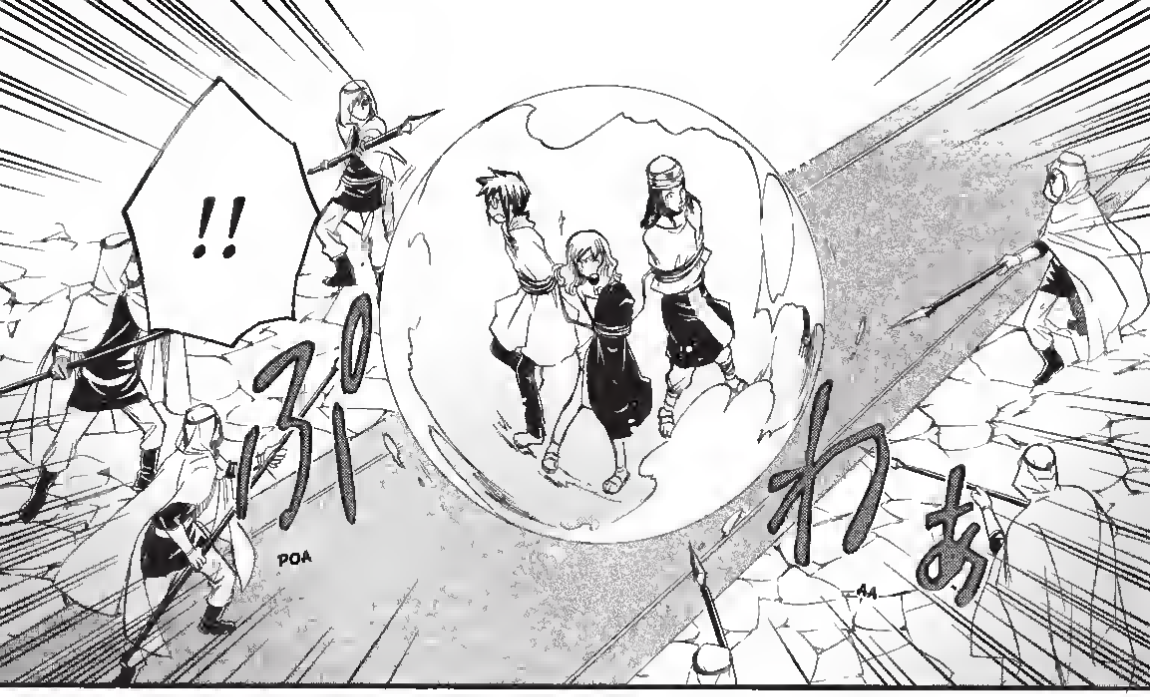
MORE PRECISELY, SHE IS A GIRL, NOT A WOMAN, AS WE HAD HEARD.
HMM. I SEE.
WHAT WOULD YOU SUGGEST WE DO?
OUR GREAT AMEFURASHI?
OUCH!

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
HOW RUDE!
YAH
YEEOW!
STUNNED
I WONDER WHERE THEY'RE TAKING US.
IT'S PRETTY FAR.
ARE WE BEING EXECUTED?
NERVOUS
WHAT A NOISY BRAT.
UGH
I WILL PUNISH YOU FOR THIS LATER!
?!
A HUGE DOOR...
THIS WAY.

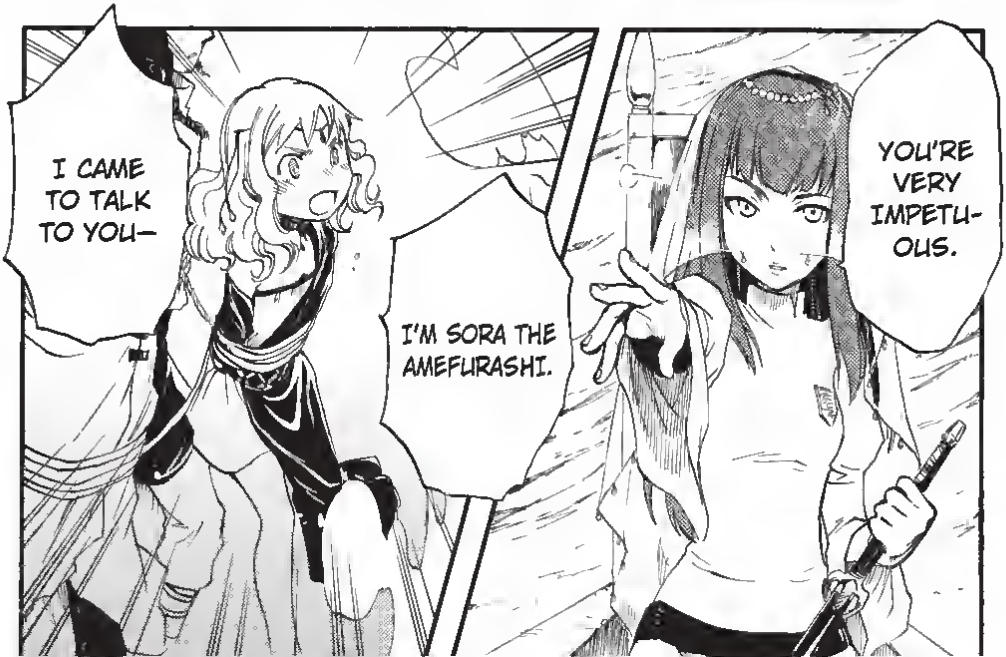

BEHAVE YOUR-SELVES.
CREAK
!!
OUR GREAT AMEFU-RASHI WILL...
...BRING YOU TO JUSTICE HERSELF.
ZAPF
ARE YOU THE PARTY IN QUESTION?
.....

I AM KIA.
THE AMEFURASHI IN CHARGE OF RAIN IN THIS REGION.
...THE AMEFURASHI OF THIS REGION.
SHE'S...
HAH?!
SLUMP
WHAT A HOT BABE—
?!
TUG

SORA!
TROMP
TROMP
HEY, YOU!
!!
ZAPF
FWAA
HOW COULD YOU TREAT YOUR OWN KIND LIKE THIS?
?!


!!
POA
AA

UGH!
!!
SORA..
YOU'RE BEING TOO RASH!
BUMP
UH-OH, WHAT'S THIS? IT WON'T BREAK.


I CAME TO TALK TO YOU—
I'M SORA THE AMEFURASHI.
YOU'RE VERY IMPETUOUS.

ACK
THE PROOF?
I HAVE NEVER SEEN AN AMEFURASHI LEAVE A TREE.
IF YOU INSIST THAT'S WHAT YOU ARE, SHOW ME THE PROOF.
HEH
YOU CAN'T PROVE IT, CAN YOU?
I CAN'T USE MY POWER NOW.
WELL
HOW CAN I PROVE MYSELF?
HEY, I'M NOT DONE TALKING YET!
SSSSS
SHFF
THAT'S ENOUGH.
?!
NO, LET ME EXPLAIN!
FWAA

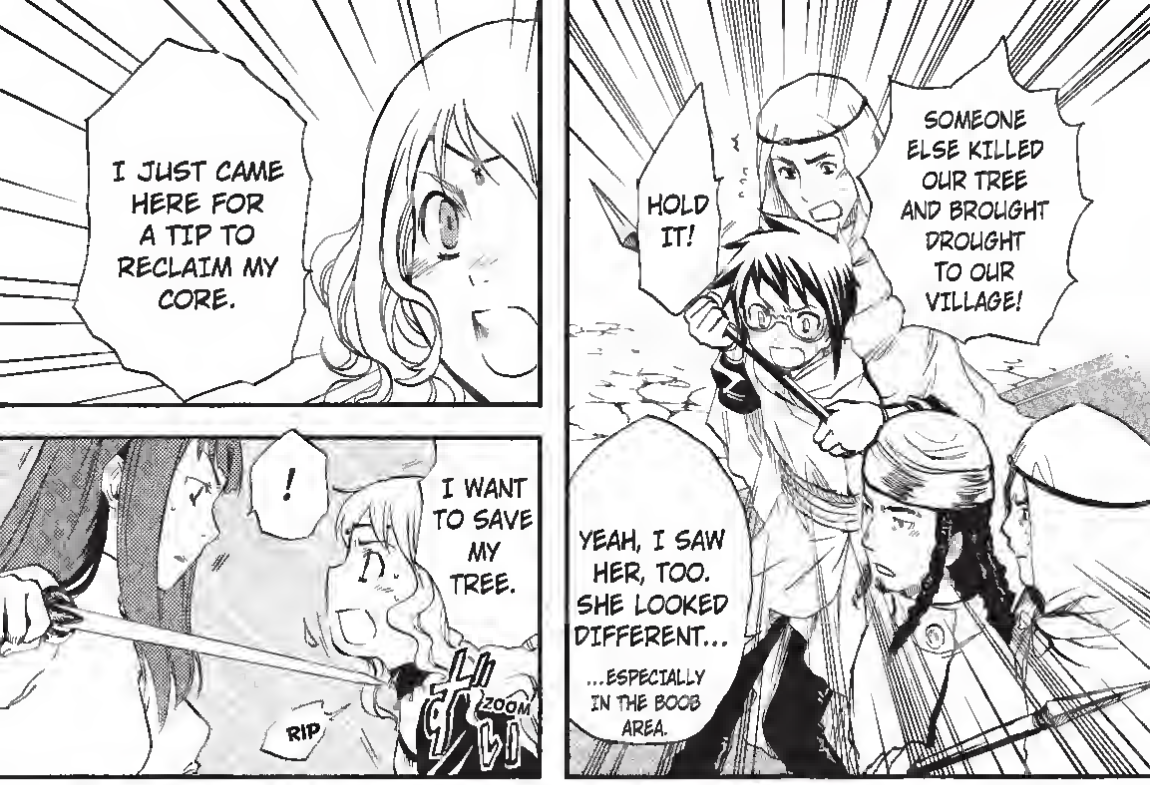
I'M SAYING...
WIGGLE
もぞっ
...I'M...
CLUTCH
SWOOSH
...THE AMEFURASHI!
I WILL HAVE NOTHING TO DO WITH AN IMPOSTOR AMEFURASHI.
LEAVE THIS TOWN AT ONCE!

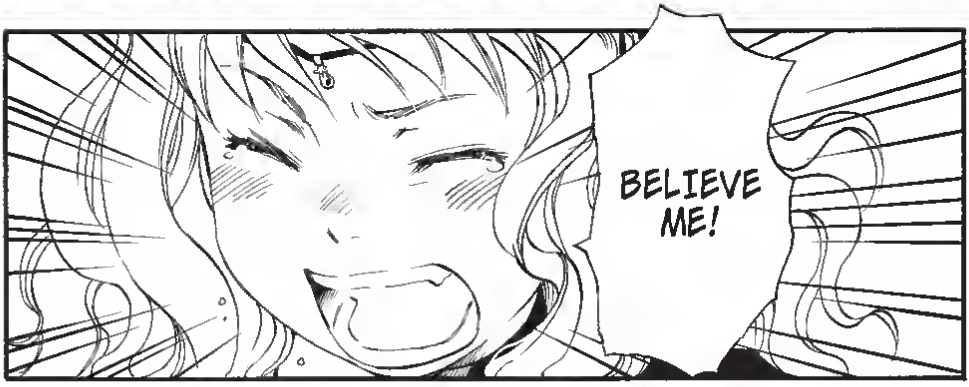
?!
SWOO
WHOA!
POP
...A SWITCH FROM THE NIMBUS TREE?
IS THAT...
THOK
AH!
WAIT.
THEN YOU MUST BE THE REAL—

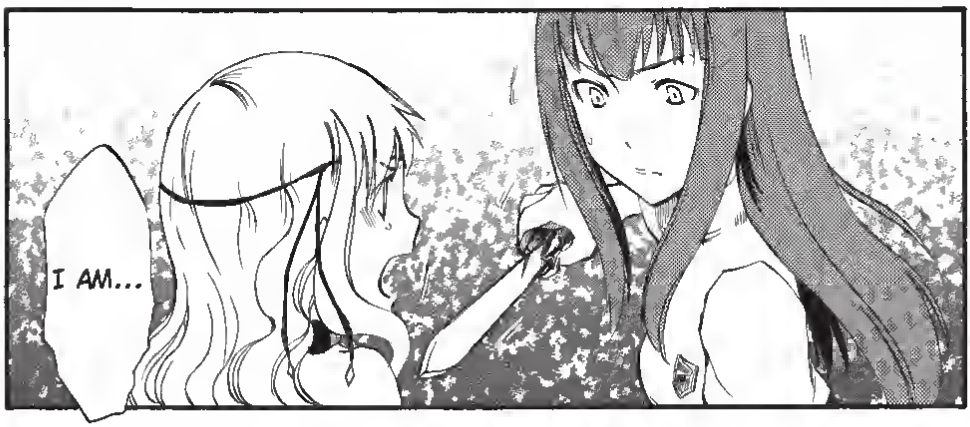
WHY YOU!
!...
WHAT'S THIS FOR?
NOW THAT YOU KNOW, GIVE ME A CHANCE TO EXPLAIN.
ZAPF
?!
WHAT THE—!
VWOOSH
CHAK
BAH
FINE.

BUT I WILL DO THE TALKING.
!
히
PAUSE
SORA!
I CAN'T BELIEVE THE CORE-STEALING, MASTER-KIDNAPPING AMEFU-RASHI...
?!
...WOULD SHOW UP LIKE THIS.
SPIT IT OUT!
WHOA! SHE'S GOT IT MIXED UP.
CHAK
WHY ARE YOU REALLY HERE?
WHERE ARE THE OTHER AMEFURASHI?
GLUK

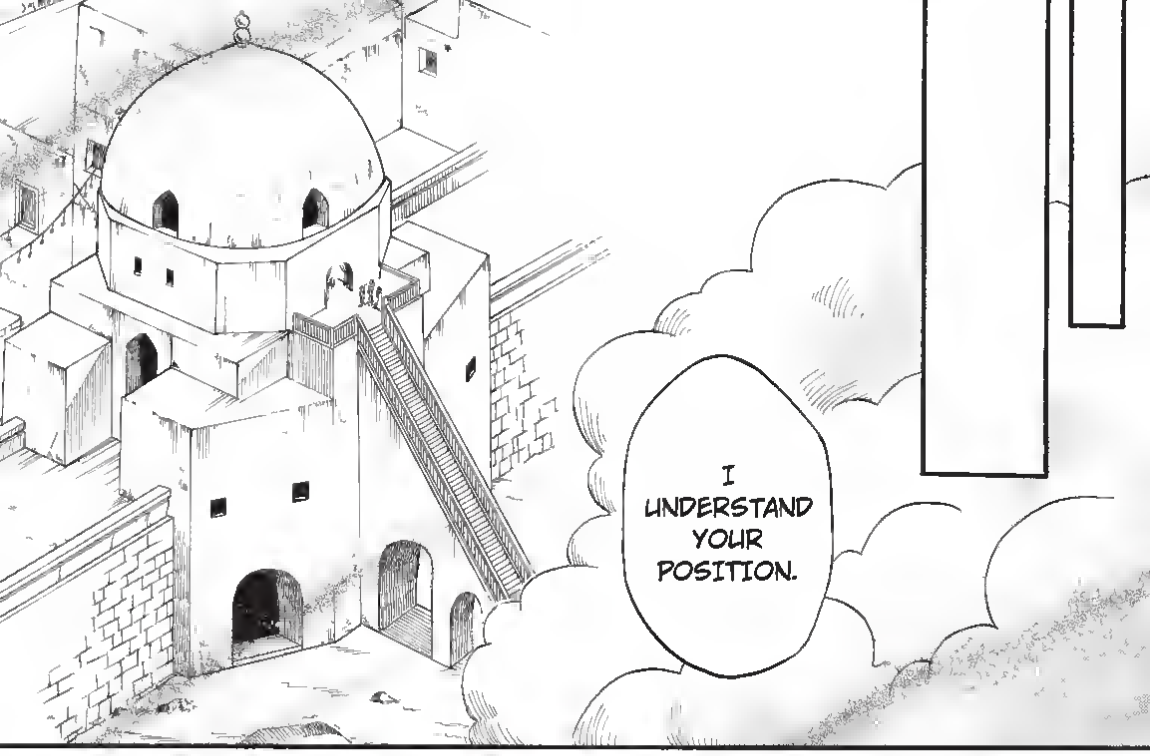
GIVE IT BACK!
THAT'S PART OF MY TREE.
STOP. YOU MISUNDER-STOOD.
SORA IS...
GLUK
SNATCH
TAKE AWAY HER WEAPON!
MY SWITCH!
COME ON, CONFESS!
HOW WOULD I KNOW? I WISH SHE COULD TELL ME!
HOW CAN I BELIEVE SUCH LIES?
I'M NOT LYING!
CIEL TOOK THE TREE, THE VILLAGE, AND MY POWERS.
SHE STOLE MY POWER CORE, TOO.

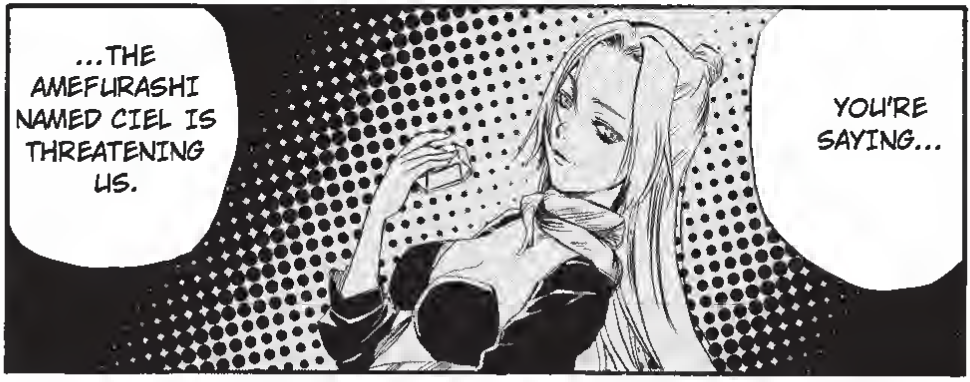

I JUST CAME HERE FOR A TIP TO RECLAIM MY CORE.
!
I WANT TO SAVE MY TREE.
RIP
ZOOM
HOLD IT!
SOMEONE ELSE KILLED OUR TREE AND BROUGHT DROUGHT TO OUR VILLAGE!
YEAH, I SAW HER, TOO. SHE LOOKED DIFFERENT...
...ESPECIALLY IN THE BOOB AREA.

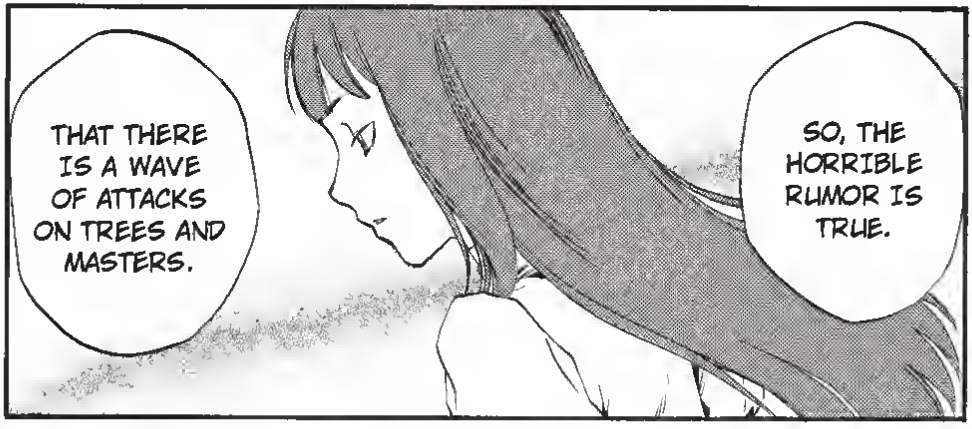

BELIEVE ME!


I AM...

I AM THE AMEFURASHI.
COME WITH ME.
FLOP
FLOP
YOUR HIGH-NESS!
AH.
LET'S HAVE A TALK.
CHAK
SHFF
RIP
?!


I UNDERSTAND YOUR POSITION.

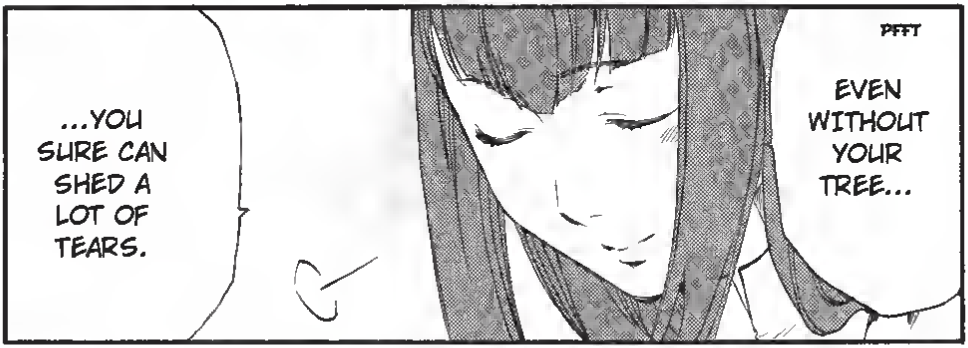

...THE AMEFURASHI NAMED CIEL IS THREATENING US.
YOU'RE SAYING...

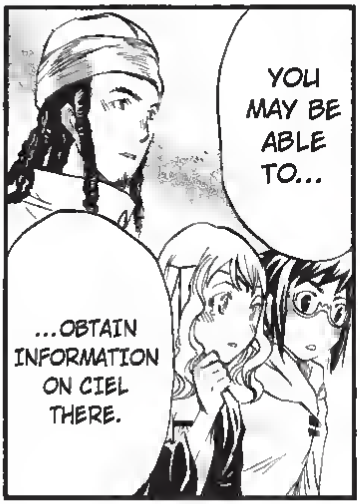

THAT THERE IS A WAVE OF ATTACKS ON TREES AND MASTERS.
SO, THE HORRIBLE RUMOR IS TRUE.

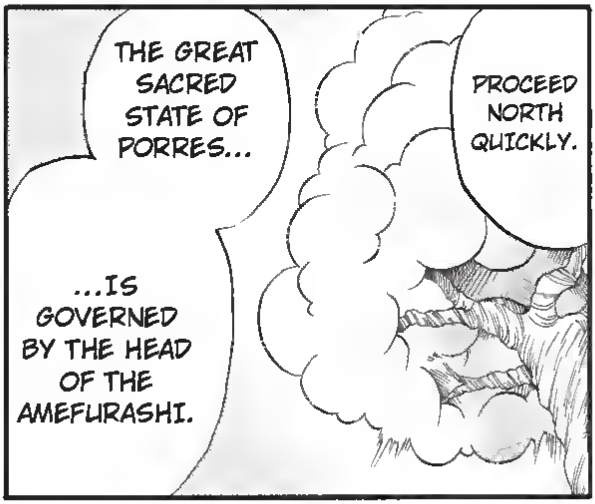
I'M GLAD YOU'RE SAFE, THOUGH.
EH?
I HAVE HEIGHTENED SECURITY ON THIS TREE AND VILLAGE...
...AND I ORDERED SUSPICIOUS PERSONS TO BE TAKEN INTO CUSTODY.
DO YOU MEAN I CAN SURVIVE...
...EVEN IF MY TREE DIES?
THE CORE IS LIKE A LIFELINE BETWEEN A TREE AND ITS MASTER.
WITHOUT IT, THEY WON'T PUT EACH OTHER IN DANGER.
.....
I CAN'T STAND THIS!
HOW CAN I ABANDON MY TREE?

!!
BUT...
...YOUR TREE WILL BE REVIVED IF YOU FIND THE CORE.
AS YOU HAVE GUESSED...
YOU MUST RECOVER THE CORE WHILE IT STILL HAS ITS LIFE FORCE.
IT'S NO USE AFTER IT DECAYS.
THE ROAD WILL BE BUMPY BUT—
?
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
.....!!
YOU MEAN WE SHOULD GET OFF OUR BUTTS NOW.

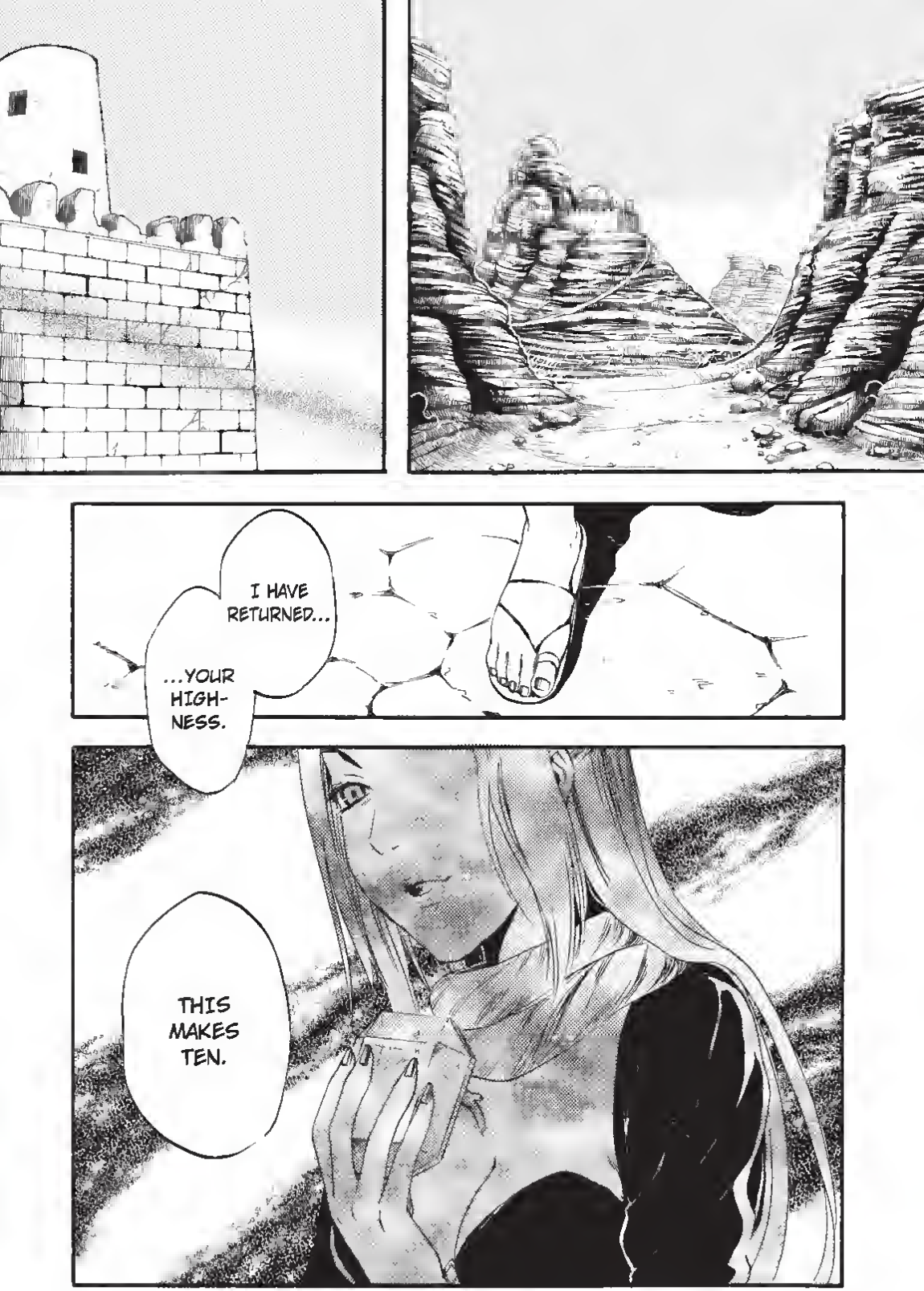
I'M...
I'M SO GLAD!
IF I TRY HARD ENOUGH, MAYBE I CAN SAVE MY TREE.
SNIFF
SNIFF


EVEN WITHOUT YOUR TREE...
PFFT
...YOU SURE CAN SHED A LOT OF TEARS.


YOU MAY BE ABLE TO...
...OBTAIN INFORMATION ON CIEL THERE.


PROCEED NORTH QUICKLY.
THE GREAT SACRED STATE OF PORRES...
...IS GOVERNED BY THE HEAD OF THE AMEFURASHI.

IF YOU TRULY CARE FOR YOUR TREE...
...IT TRUSTS YOU AND WILL BE WAITING FOR YOU.
WHOOSH
ヒュオオオ…オ…


I HAVE RETURNED...
...YOUR HIGH-NESS.
THIS MAKES TEN.

I BELIEVE NOW IS THE TIME...
...TO GROW A TREE THAT WILL RULE OVER THE WORLD.
I HAVE PLENTY OF NUTRIENTS...
...IN STORE AS WELL.
WHOOSH
ヒュオオオ...
THE REST...
...IS UP TO YOU.

Drop 7 The End

Drop 8 Off to the Desert

A DESERT SHIP?
YES.
THERE IS A LINER THAT CROSSES THE DESERT...
...BETWEEN CITIES AND COUNTRIES LIKE KUR AND PORRES.

I CAN TAKE YOU THERE IN MY BUBBLE.
A PIER IS LOCATED JUST OUTSIDE OF THE CITY.

SWOOSH

SWOOSH
WOW!

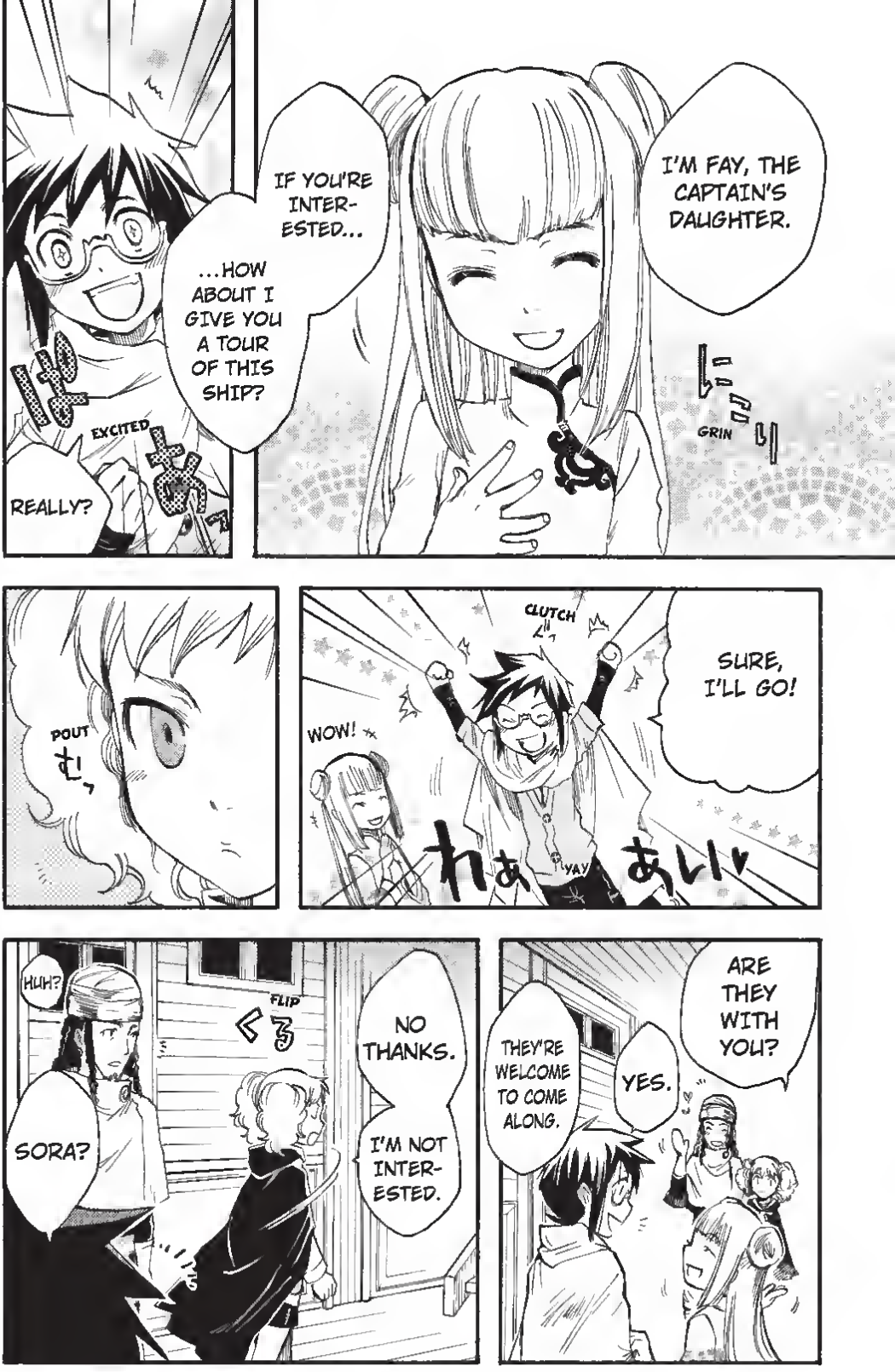
IT'S MOVING.

THIS IS COOL!

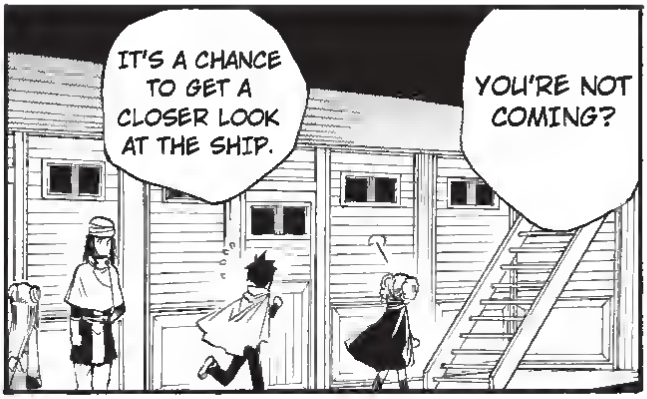
GIMMY IS JUST AS EXCITED AS MIL AND MEL.
I NEVER EVER THOUGHT I'D GET TO RIDE IN ONE!
I'VE ONLY SEEN SHIPS LIKE THESE IN BOOKS.
SORT OF.
I THOUGHT YOU'D GET EXCITED, TOO.
YOU LOOK GLUM.
GOT SEASICK?
WHAT'S SO AMUSING?
USUALLY, HE ACTS TOUGH BECAUSE...
...HE HAS TO CARE FOR THE TWINS IN PLACE OF HIS LATE PARENTS.
HE'S AT HIS BEST...
...WHEN HE'S INVENT-ING AND EXPLOR-ING.
HE LOVES THIS KIND OF STUFF.

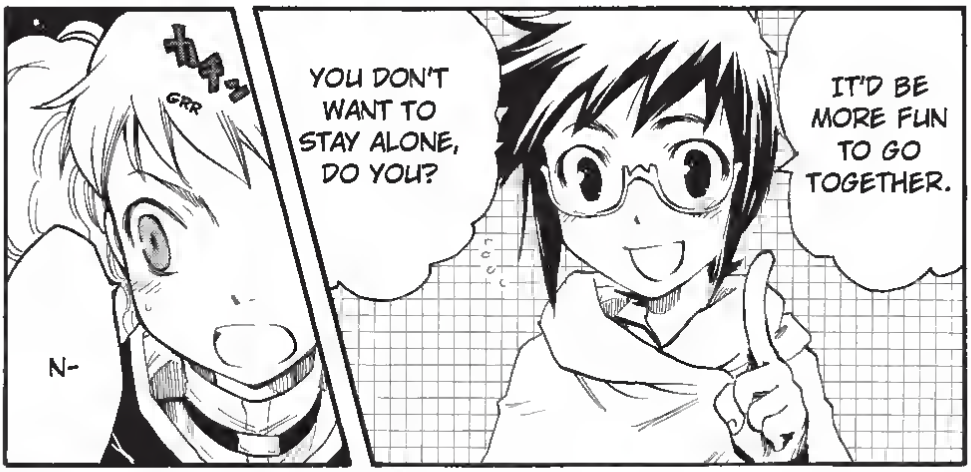
HE'S JUST A KID, TOO.
I WONDER HOW FAST IT'S GOING.
SHIFT
TMP
WOW. THIS SHIP IS FAST.
EEP!
どんっ
BUMP
WHOA!

I-I'M SORRY!
AW.
I WAS JUST SO INTO THE SHIP.
I'M SORRY, TOO.
NO.
YES, I'M FINE.
ARE YOU OKAY?
SO YOU LOVE SHIPS.
YOU'RE NOT HURT?
WELL, YES.
A BEAUTIFUL, EXOTIC GIRL!
OH!
?


I'M FAY, THE CAPTAIN'S DAUGHTER.
GRIN
IF YOU'RE INTER-ESTED...
...HOW ABOUT I GIVE YOU A TOUR OF THIS SHIP?
EXCITED
REALLY?
POUT
CLUTCH
SURE, I'LL GO!
WOW!
YAY
ARE THEY WITH YOU?
YES.
THEY'RE WELCOME TO COME ALONG.
HUH?
FLIP
NO THANKS.
I'M NOT INTER-ESTED.
SORA?

WHAT? WHY DON'T YOU GO IF YOU WANT TO?
YES, BUT...
OH, A LOVERS' QUARREL.

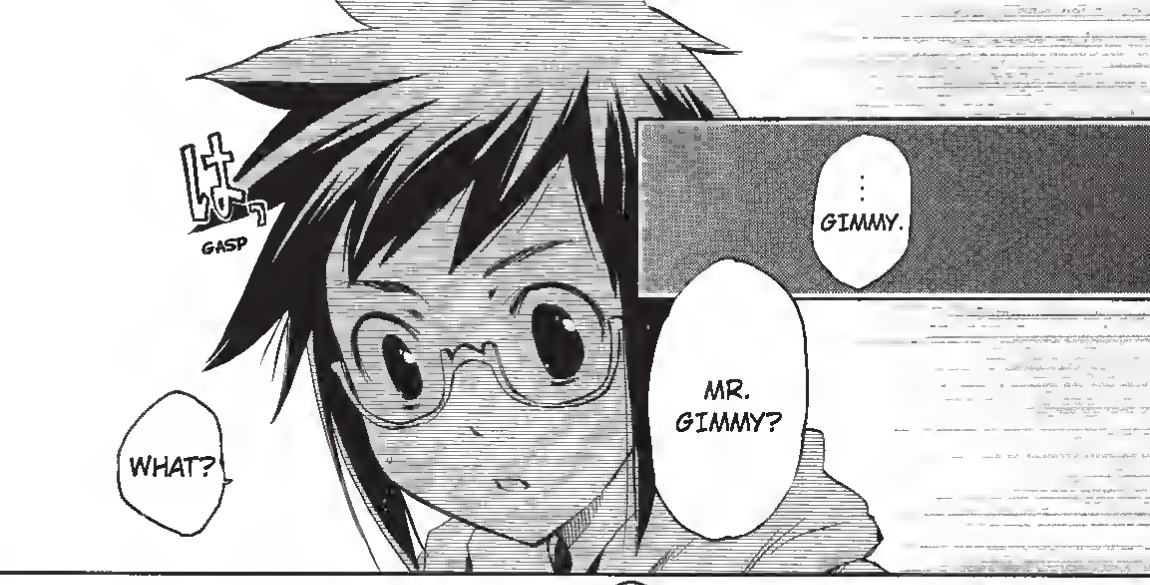

IT'S A CHANCE TO GET A CLOSER LOOK AT THE SHIP.
YOU'RE NOT COMING?


GRR
N-
YOU DON'T WANT TO STAY ALONE, DO YOU?
IT'D BE MORE FUN TO GO TOGETHER.

I'M A GOD.

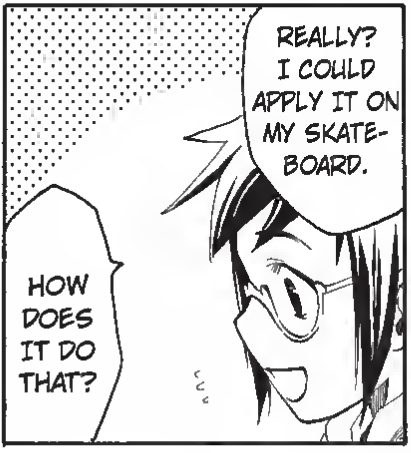
HUH?
NO.
I'M FINE BY MYSELF!
BAH
ばっ

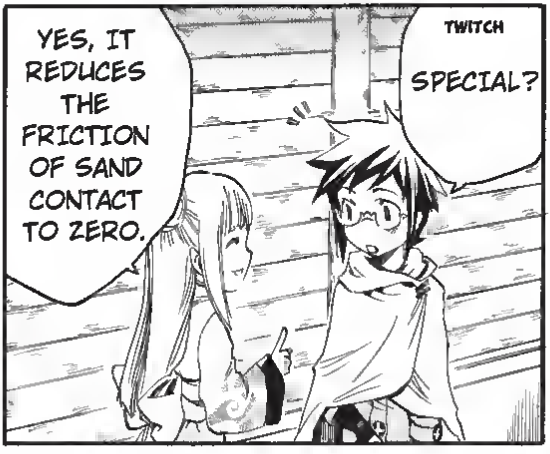
WHEN I LIVED IN MY TREE...
...I MANAGED TO GET ALONG FINE ALL BY MYSELF.
I'M NOT ALL CLINGY LIKE YOU.
!!
.....
?
.....
WHAT THE HECK?


GASP
WHAT?
MR. GIMMY?
GIMMY.

HA HA
WHAT MOVES THIS HUGE VESSEL...
...IS A SPECIAL BOTTOM.

OH, NO!
IT'S SO COOL THAT THIS SHIP...
...OPERATES ON WIND POWER.
YOU'RE NOT INTERESTED IN THIS?

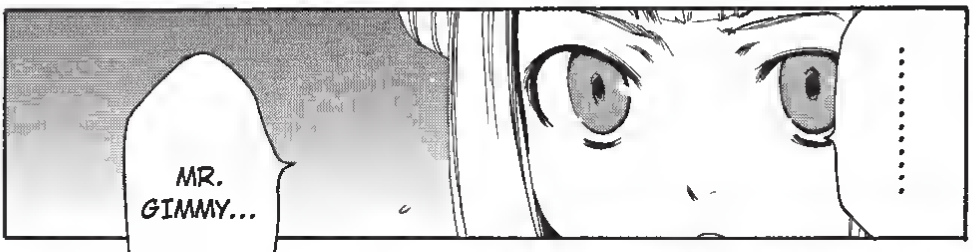

REALLY? I COULD APPLY IT ON MY SKATE-BOARD.
HOW DOES IT DO THAT?

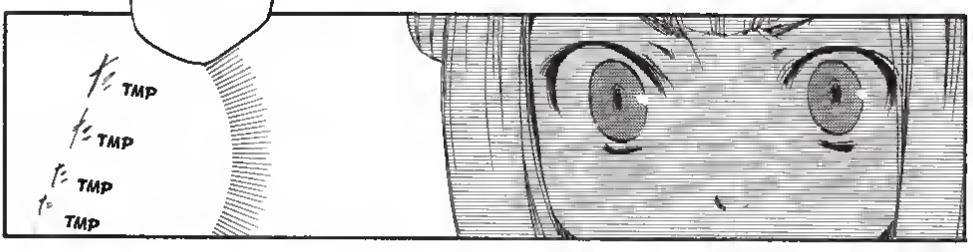

YES, IT REDUCES THE FRICTION OF SAND CONTACT TO ZERO.
TWITCH
SPECIAL?

WHAT?
THE NIMBUS BUBBLES?
THEY'RE PERFECT TOOLS FOR THIS.
NIMBUS BUBBLES RARELY BREAK.
THAT'S RIGHT.
THEY'RE SHAPED SO THEY CAN FIT SNUGLY ON THE BOTTOM, THOUGH.
THAT THING THE AMEFURASHI USES?
THE AMEFURASHI IS...
...REALLY AMAZING.
IS THAT RIGHT?
.....

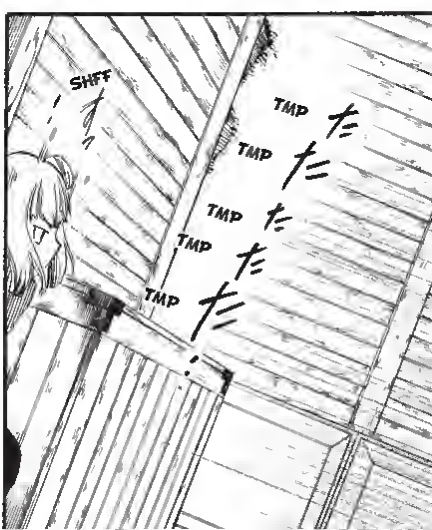
AT FIRST...
...TO BE HONEST, I WAS AFRAID OF HER.
SHE'S MY VILLAGE'S AMEFU-RASHI.
BELIEVE IT OR NOT.
ACTUALLY...
...THAT GIRL YOU SAW EARLIER, SORA...
ALTHOUGH SHE'S VERY POWER-FUL...
...SHE'S JUST A REGULAR GIRL DEEP INSIDE.
BUT I GOT TO KNOW HER BETTER AS WE STAYED TOGETHER.
.....
...THAT SHE'S IN A DIFFERENT POSITION...
...FROM US.
"I'M NOT LIKE YOU."
SO, I'VE COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN...

WAS IT RUDE OF ME...
...TO TREAT HER LIKE A *FRIEND*?

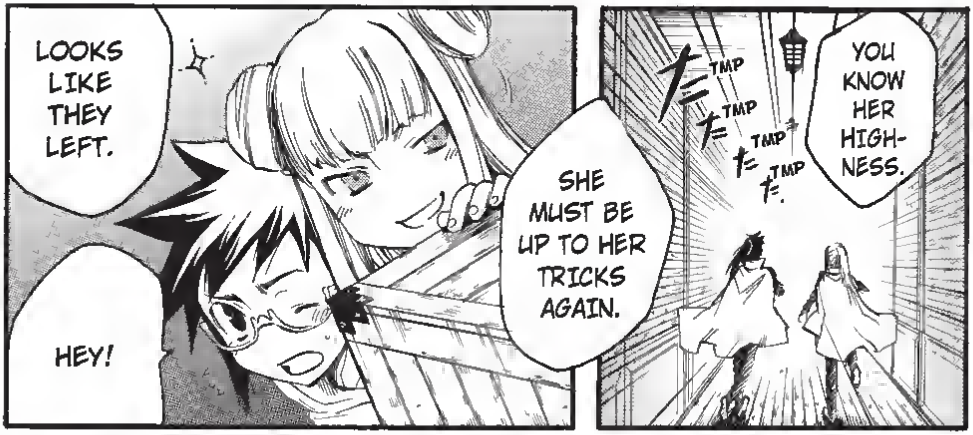

.....
MR. GIMMY...


TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP

ARGH!
DUCK!!
WHAM

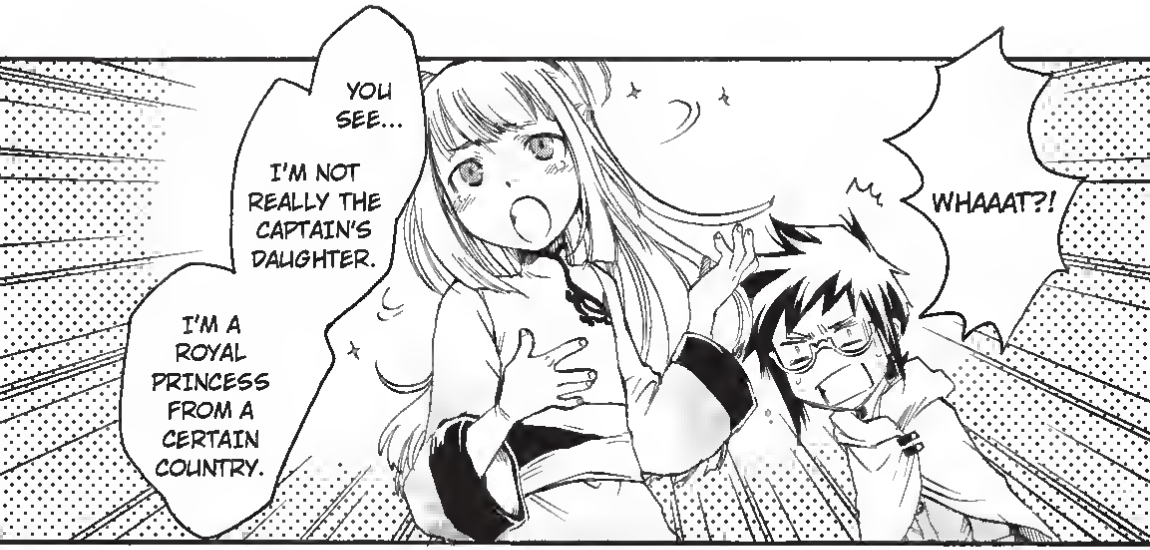

SHFF
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP

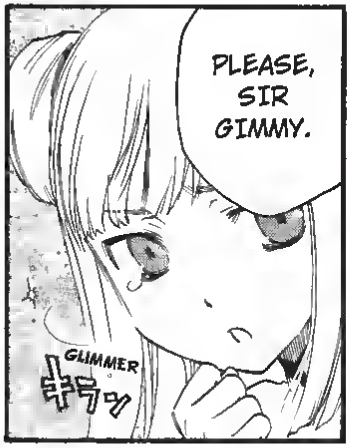
WE CAN'T LET HER OUT OF OUR SIGHT.
?
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
?
EESH!
WHERE DID SHE GO NOW?
TROMP
TROMP
TROMP


LOOKS LIKE THEY LEFT.
HEY!
SHE MUST BE UP TO HER TRICKS AGAIN.
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
YOU KNOW HER HIGH-NESS.

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...
...I RAN AWAY FROM HOME.

WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
WHY ARE THEY AFTER YOU?

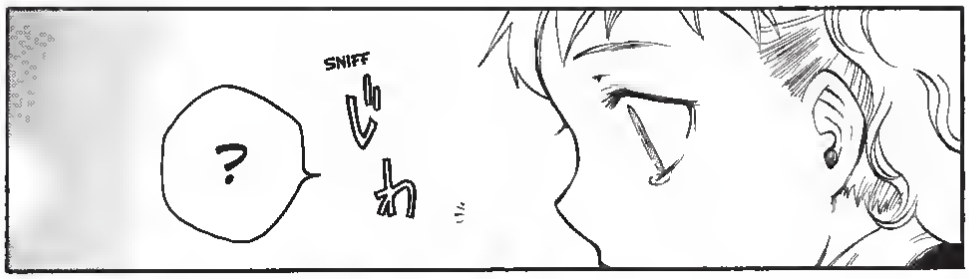

YOU SEE...
I'M NOT REALLY THE CAPTAIN'S DAUGHTER.
I'M A ROYAL PRINCESS FROM A CERTAIN COUNTRY.
WHAAAT?!


PLEASE, SIR GIMMY.
GLIMMER

BLAH
...TO REPAY MY COUNTRY'S DEBT.
I'M BEING DELIVERED TO AN EVIL KING...
BLAH
BLAH
BLAH
WOW
WHAT?
THAT'S TERRIBLE!

WAHH!
GRAB
HELP ME ESCAPE!
DASH

I WONDER...
...WHY I'M SO ANNOYED.
...ALL I HAD TO DO IN LIFE WAS BRING RAIN.
UP UNTIL NOW...
IS IT BECAUSE I LOST MY POWERS?
I WAS ALL ALONE IN A TREE...
...JUST MAKING IT RAIN...
...DAY AFTER DAY.


SNIFF
じわ
?

I REMEMBER...
...THE DAY THE DOLLIES FIRST CAME TO MY HOUSE.

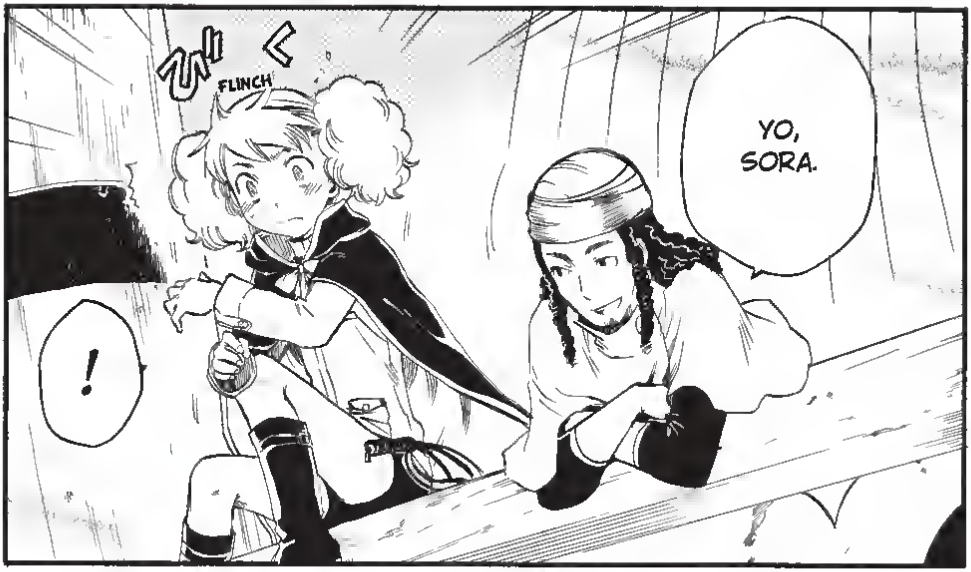
HUH?
WHY THE TEARS?

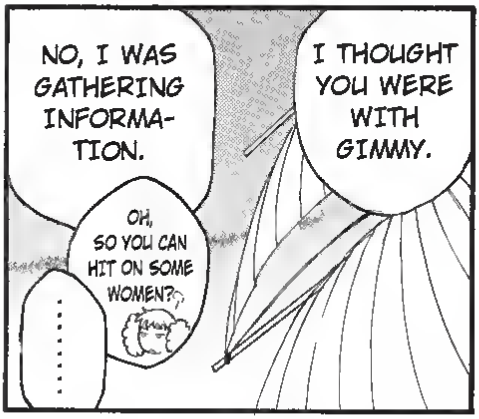
BUT...

YES, SO THIS IS WHERE THE AMEFURASHI LIVES!
ISN'T THIS COOL, MEL?

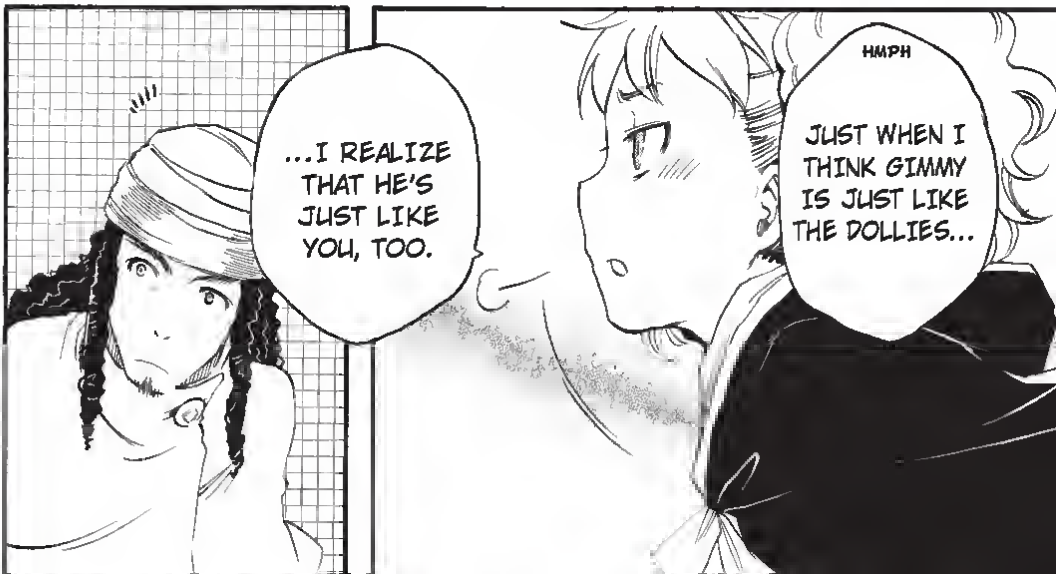
IT MUST BE A LITTLE...
...LONELY FOR HER.

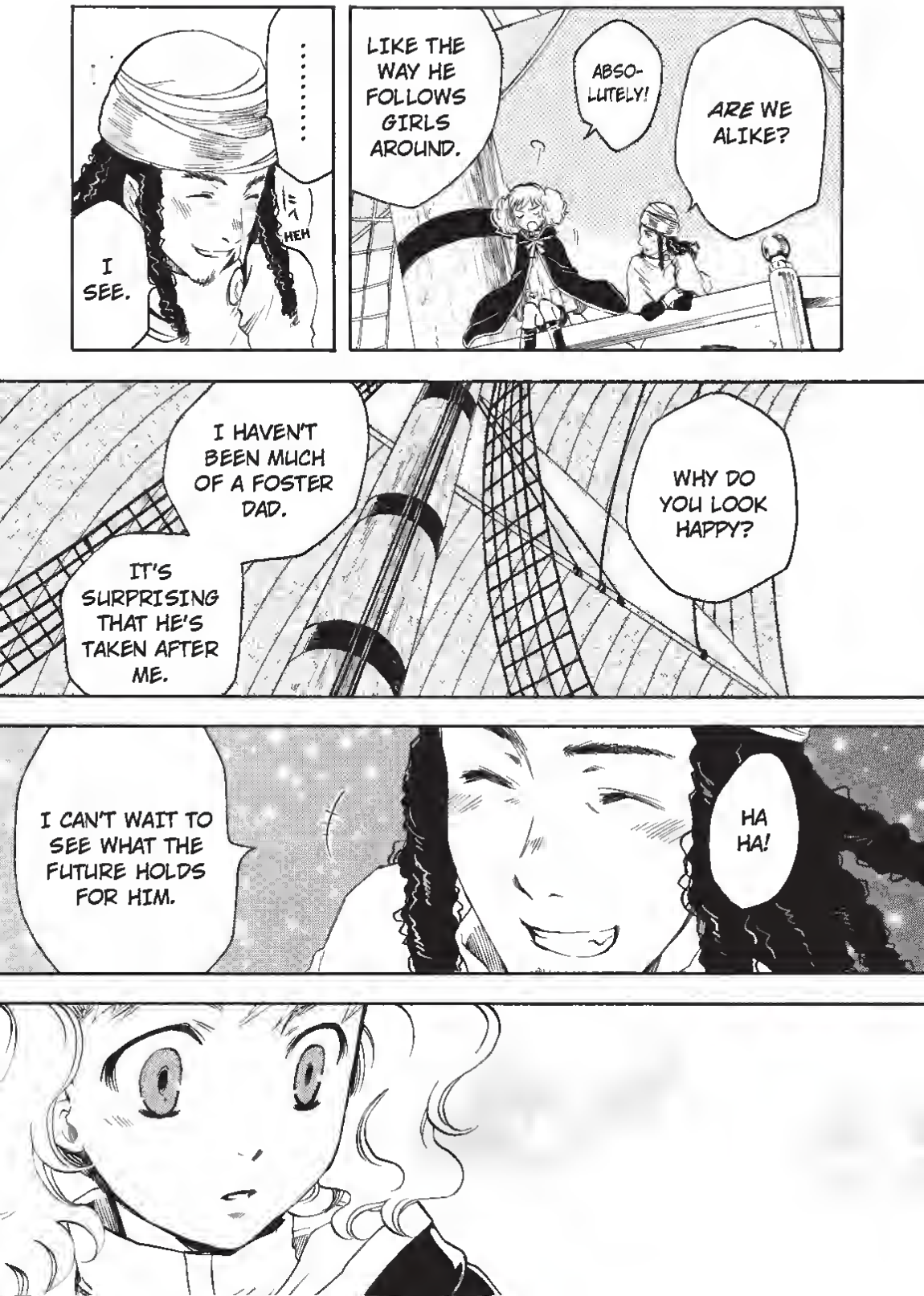
WHOOSH
COME TO THINK OF IT...
.....
...THIS SCENERY REMINDS ME OF MY TREE.
"I'M NOT LIKE YOU!"
I DIDN'T MEAN TO...
...SAY THOSE THINGS.
CREAK

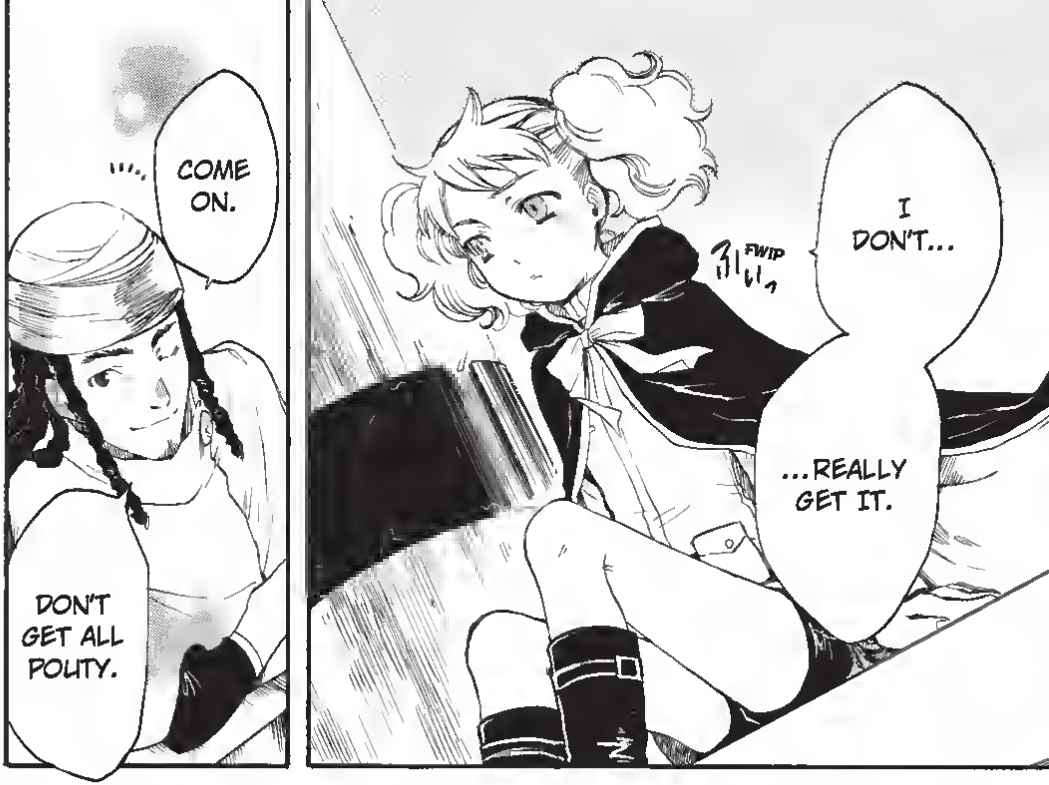

FLINCH
YO, SORA.
!


NO, I WAS GATHERING INFORMA-TION.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE WITH GIMMY.
OH, SO YOU CAN HIT ON SOME WOMEN?
.....

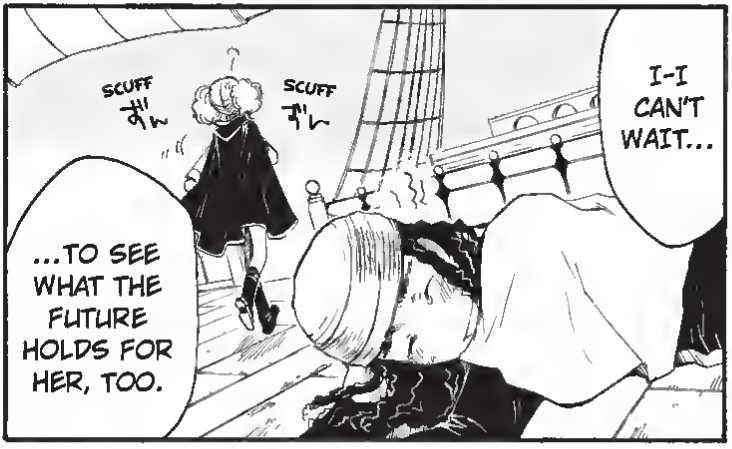
WHAT, GOATEE?
ISN'T IT ABOUT TIME YOU CALL ME DARYL?


...I REALIZE THAT HE'S JUST LIKE YOU, TOO.
HMPH
JUST WHEN I THINK GIMMY IS JUST LIKE THE DOLLIES...


I SEE.
HEH
LIKE THE WAY HE FOLLOWS GIRLS AROUND.
ABSO-LUTELY!
ARE WE ALIKE?
I HAVEN'T BEEN MUCH OF A FOSTER DAD.
IT'S SURPRISING THAT HE'S TAKEN AFTER ME.
WHY DO YOU LOOK HAPPY?
I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR HIM.
HA HA!


COME ON.
DON'T GET ALL POUTY.
FWIP
I DON'T...
...REALLY GET IT.

DON'T PUSH YOUR LUCK, GOATEE!
WHACK
HOW ABOUT SOME TEA WITH GIMMY'S DOUBLE?


SCUFF
SCUFF
I-I CAN'T WAIT...
...TO SEE WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS FOR HER, TOO.

I GUESS I OWE HIM AN APOLOGY.
NOW WHAT?
EEYAAA!
はっ GASP
LEAVE HER ALONE! YOU'RE UPSETTING HER.
ばっ BAH
COME ON, YOUR HIGH-NESS.
THERE YOU ARE!
STAY AWAY FROM ME!
THAT'S...!

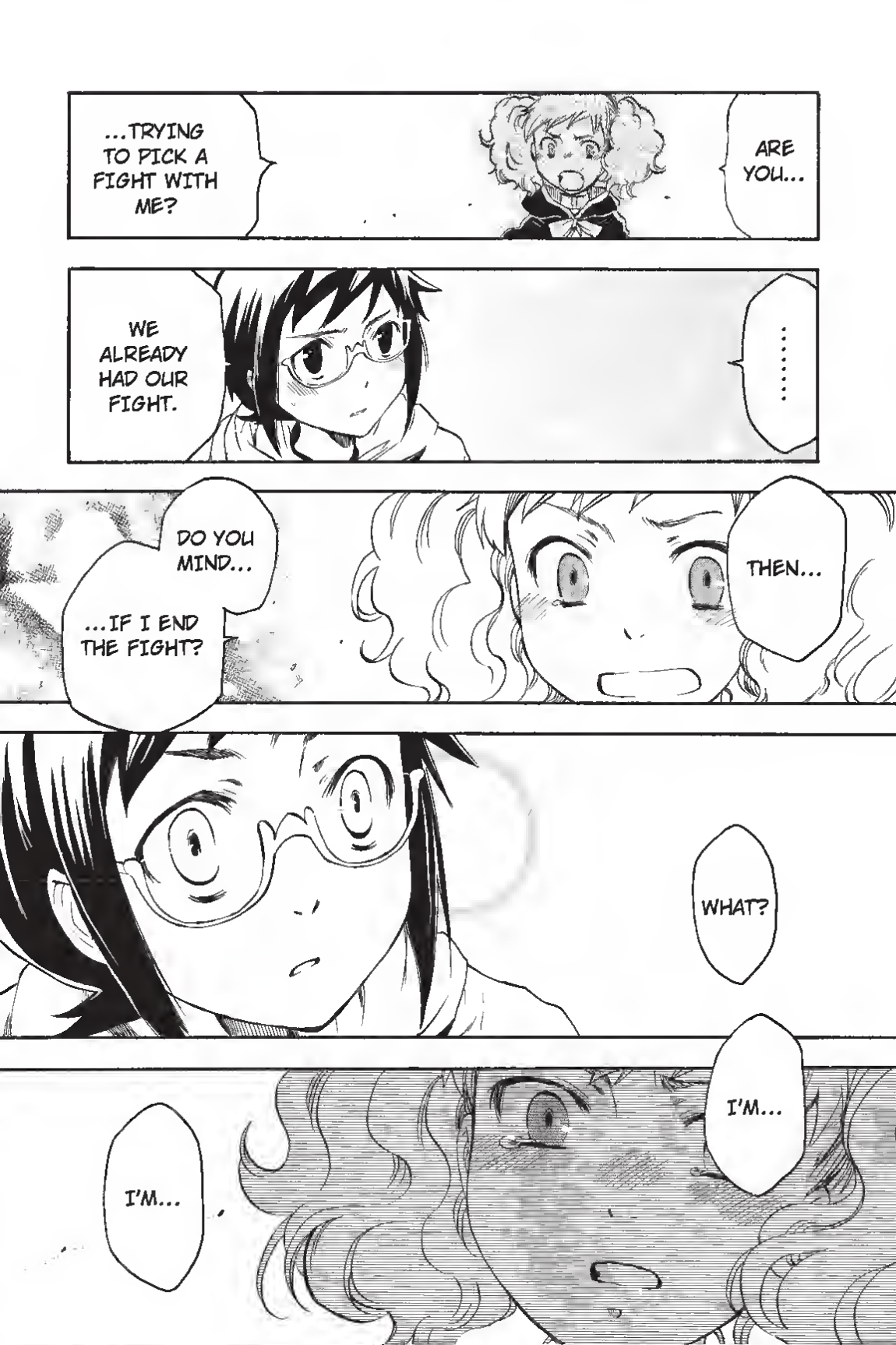
DON'T TOUCH HER OR YOU'LL GET IN TROUBLE!
THAT'S ENOUGH PLAYING.
DON'T TOUCH HER!
I DON'T KNOW WHAT SHE TOLD YOU.
YOU KNOW, KID.
PLAY-ING?
SHE WAS RUNNING FOR HER LIFE!
SHE IS THE GREAT AMEFURASHI!
LISTEN, SHE ISN'T A HUMAN.
BAM
HUH?

WHAAAT?!
SO THE ROYAL PRINCESS IS—
OOPS.
IT WAS A FLAT-OUT LIE.
SIGH
YOU HAVE HAD ENOUGH EXPERIENCE BEING A PRINCESS ON A SECRET TRIP.
LET'S GO BACK HOME IN THE NIMBUS BUBBLE.
WE DON'T NEED TO RIDE THIS SLOW SHIP.
.....
I KNOW.
SILENCE

A GOD'S ROLE IS TO PROTECT HER TREE AND HER PEOPLE.
SINCE I ALWAYS LIVE ALONE...
...I LONG FOR ORDINARY LIFE.
AH...
ズキン
TWINGE
Doll
"YOU LIKE DOLLS, DON'T YOU?"
"SORT OF."
"I'M FINE BY MYSELF!"

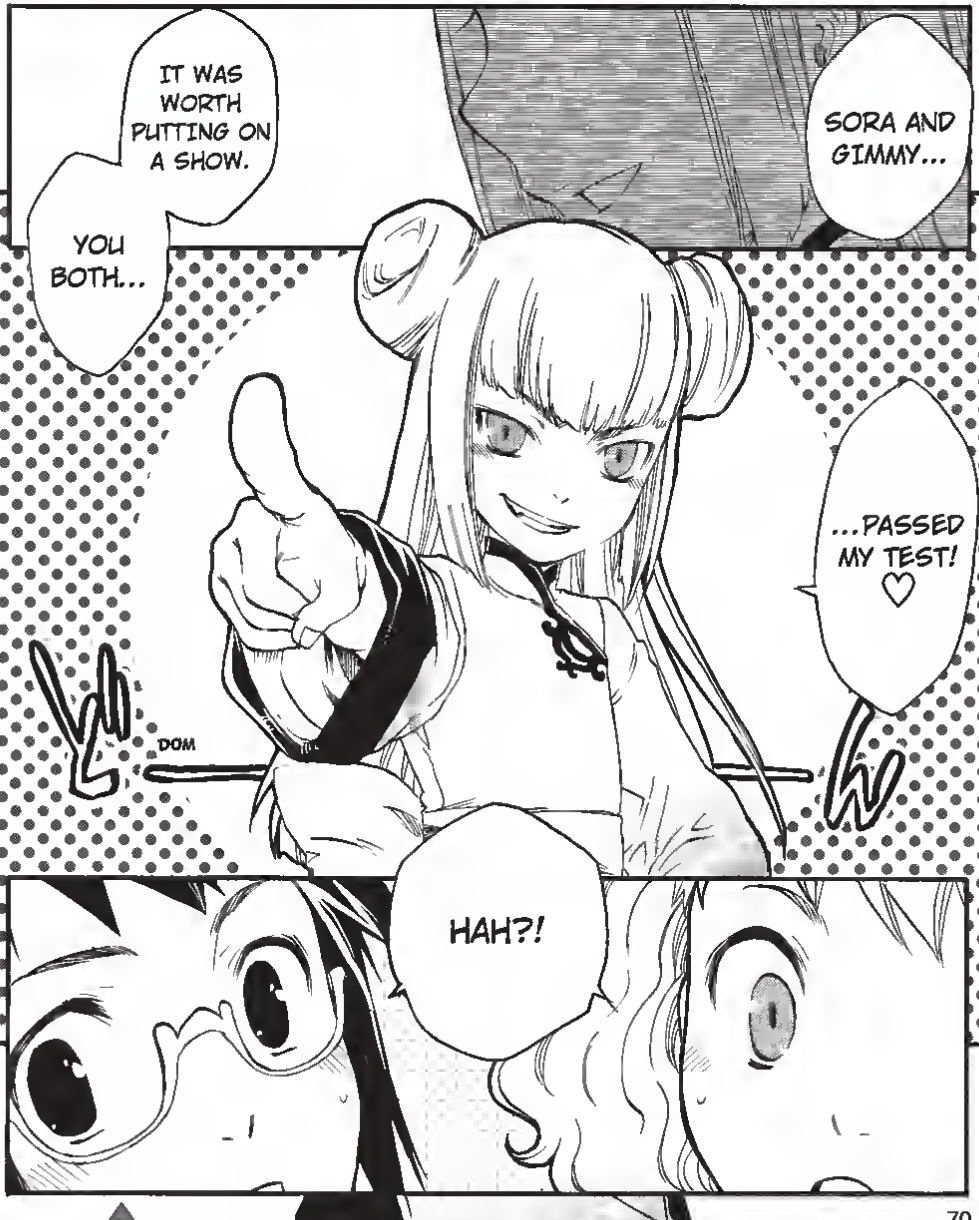
I GUESS...
...AMEFURASHI AND HUMANS LIVE...
...IN A DIFFERENT WORLD...
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
DON'T...
...SAY THAT.
WE'RE...
...NOT THAT MUCH DIFFERENT.

YOU'RE MAKING YOURSELF BELIEVE...
...THAT DIFFERENCE IS THE WALL YOU'RE UP AGAINST.
YOU CAN ALWAYS OVERCOME IT!
.....
OH...
WHAT'S THAT...
...SUP-POSED TO MEAN?
TMP
SORA!
HUH?

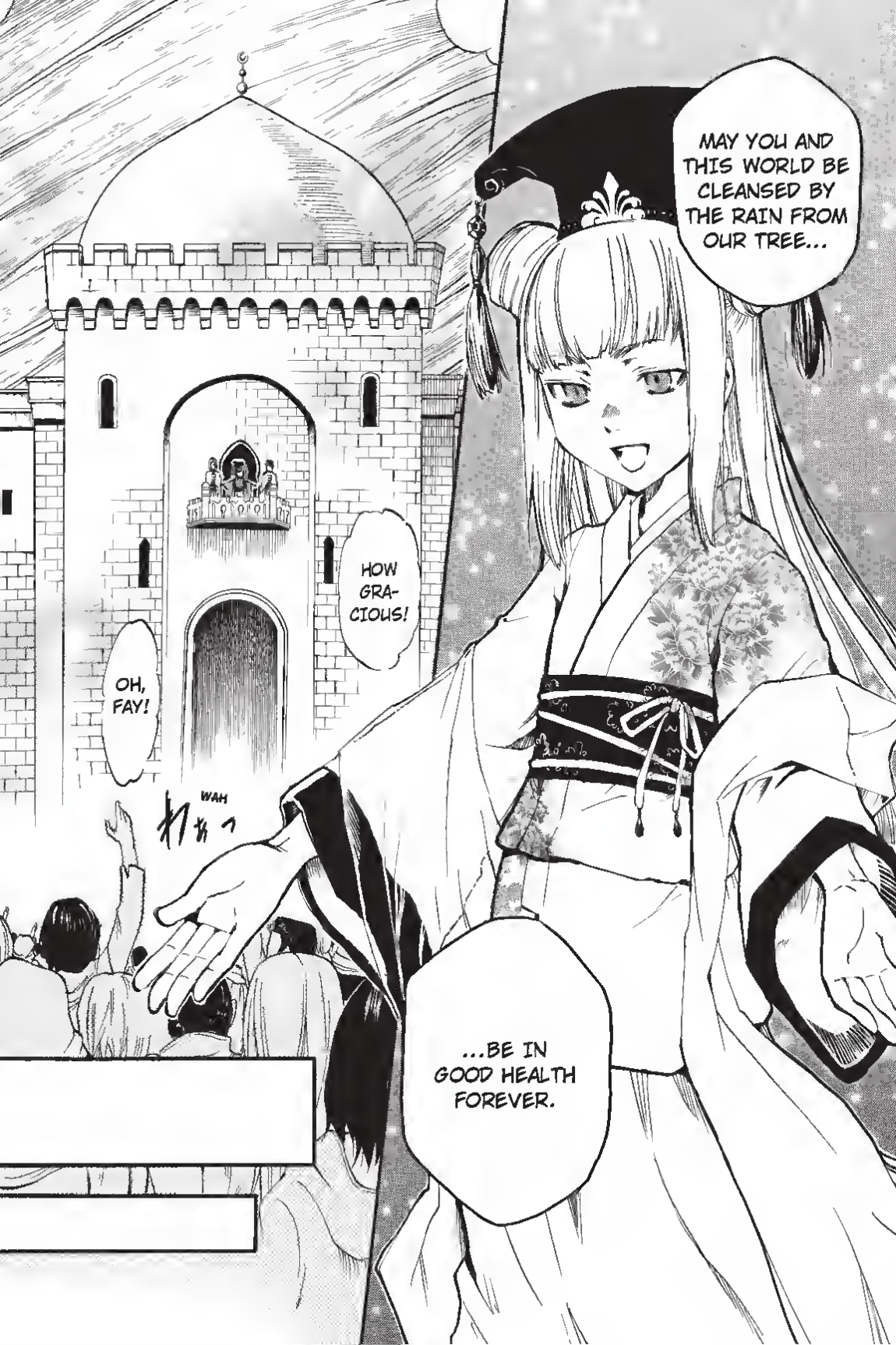

...TRYING TO PICK A FIGHT WITH ME?
ARE YOU...
WE ALREADY HAD OUR FIGHT.
.....
DO YOU MIND...
...IF I END THE FIGHT?
THEN...
WHAT?
I'M...
I'M...

THUD
AUGH!
I'M SORRY, GIMMY!
ACK, SHE JUMPED HIM!
HEH
RIGHT.
.....
YOUR POWER COMES FROM YOUR RELATIONSHIP WITH OTHER PEOPLE.
AND IT'S THE MOST VITAL THING TO A SUPERIOR AMEFURASHI.

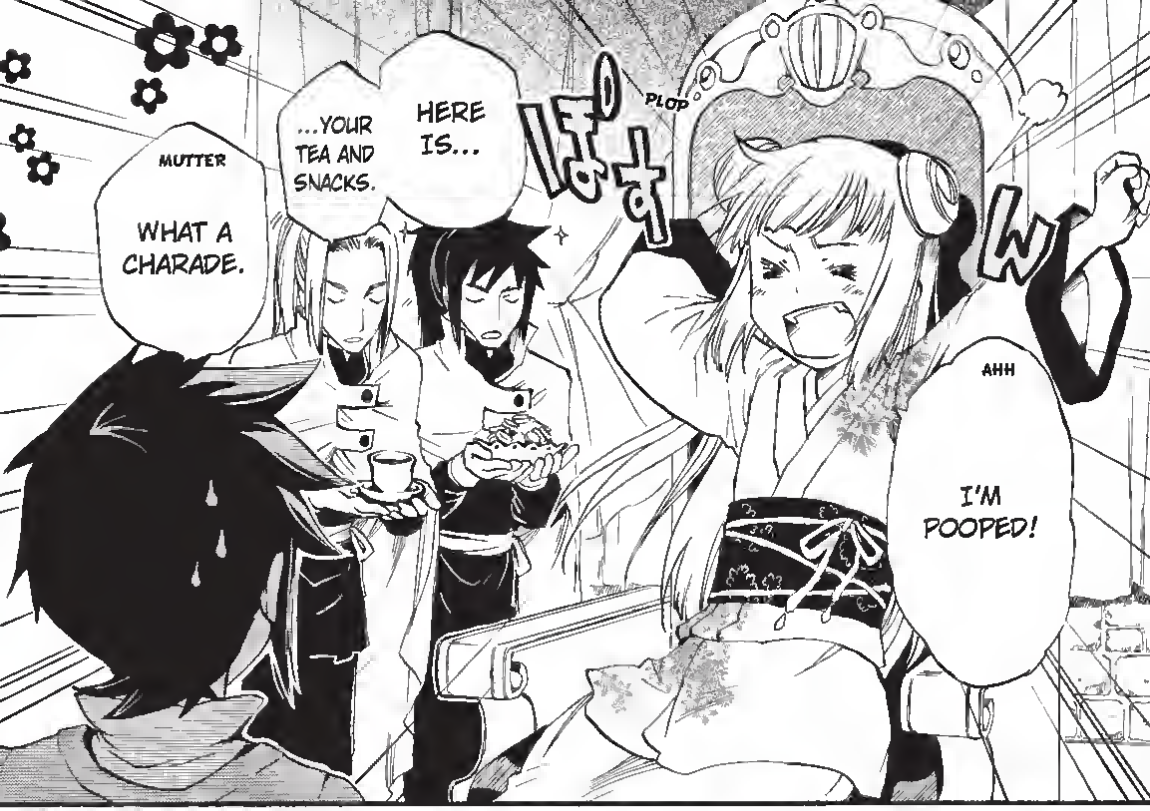
WHAT?
DIZZY
DIZZY
HUH?

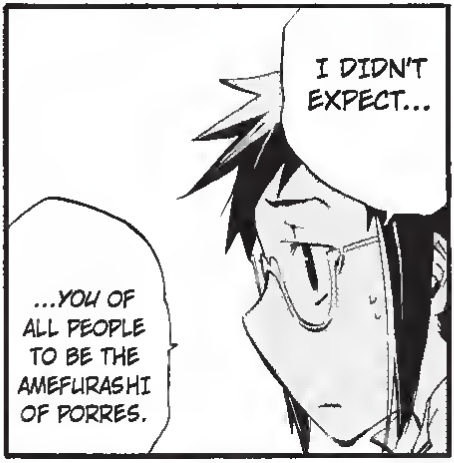

IT WAS WORTH PUTTING ON A SHOW.
YOU BOTH...
SORA AND GIMMY...
...PASSED MY TEST! ♡
DOM
HAH?!

A COUNTRY GOVERNED BY THE MOTHERLY NIMBUS TREE...
...AND THE GREATEST OF AMEFURASHI.
PORRES...
...THE MOST ANCIENT COUNTRY.
BUT...
ぽか
STUNNED
ん
WE'VE FINALLY ARRIVED!
MY BELOVED PEOPLE.


MAY YOU AND THIS WORLD BE CLEANSED BY THE RAIN FROM OUR TREE...
HOW GRA-CIOUS!
OH, FAY!
WAH
...BE IN GOOD HEALTH FOREVER.

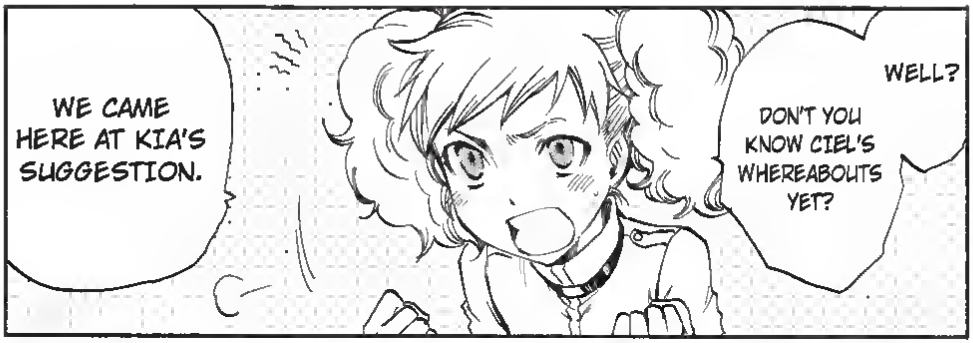
Drop 9 To the Devil's Castle!

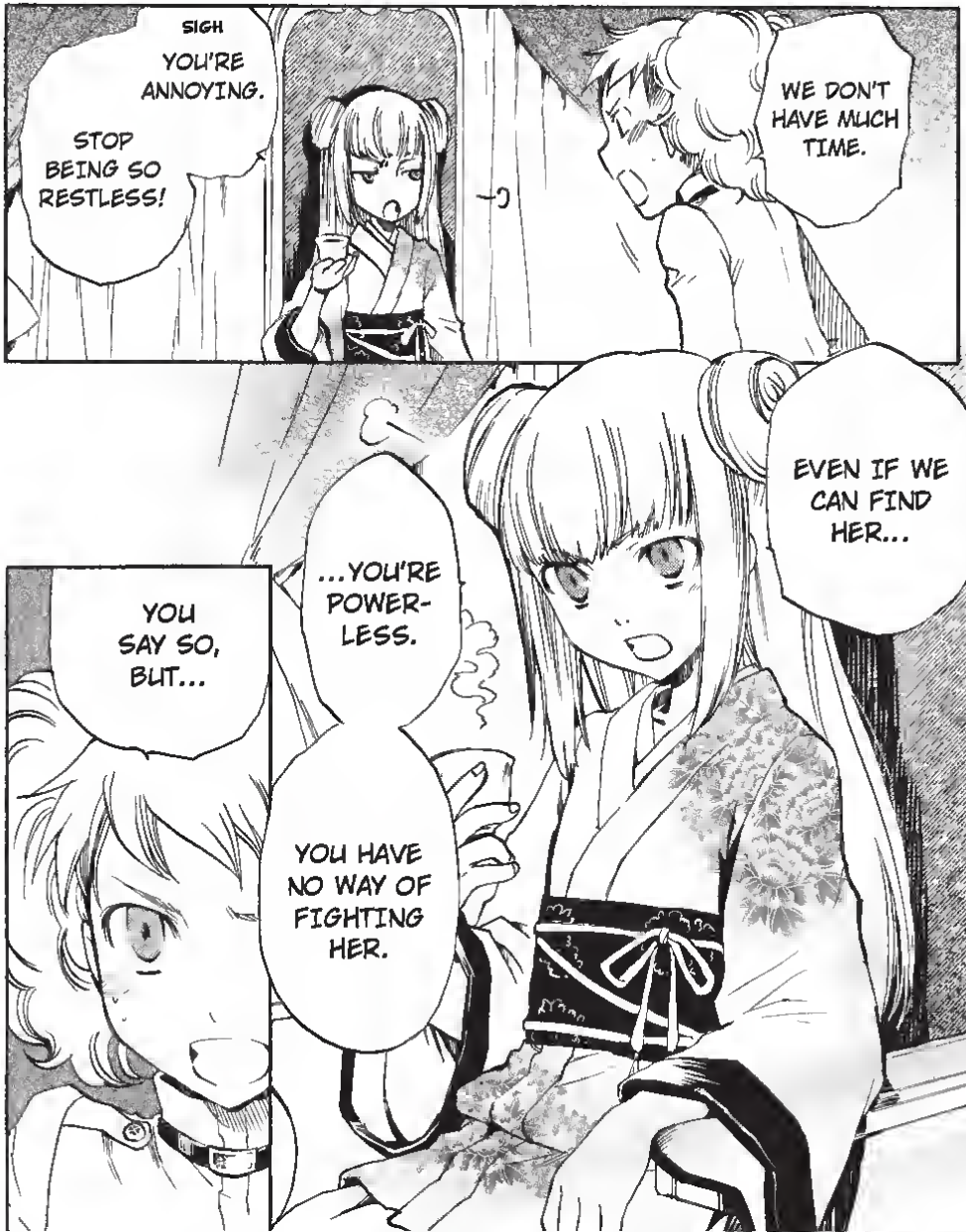

MUTTER
WHAT A CHARADE.
...YOUR TEA AND SNACKS.
HERE IS...
PLOP
AHH
I'M POOPED!


I DIDN'T EXPECT...
...YOU OF ALL PEOPLE TO BE THE AMEFURASHI OF PORRES.

GLARE
NO, NOTHING!
DID YOU JUST SAY SOMETHING?

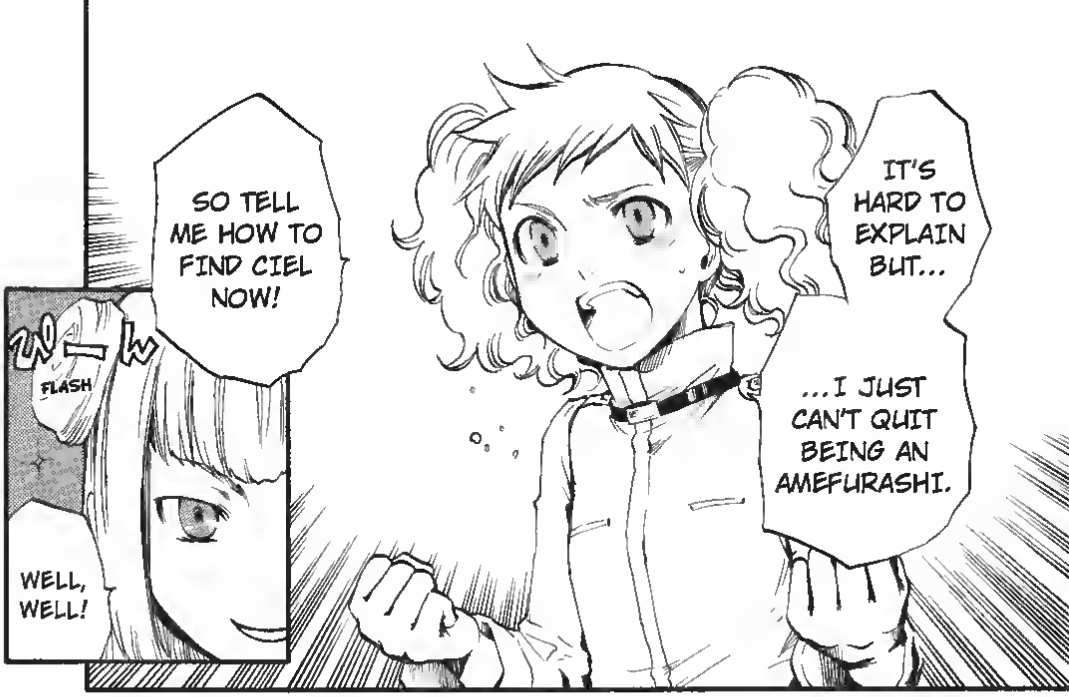
HM?
FAY.

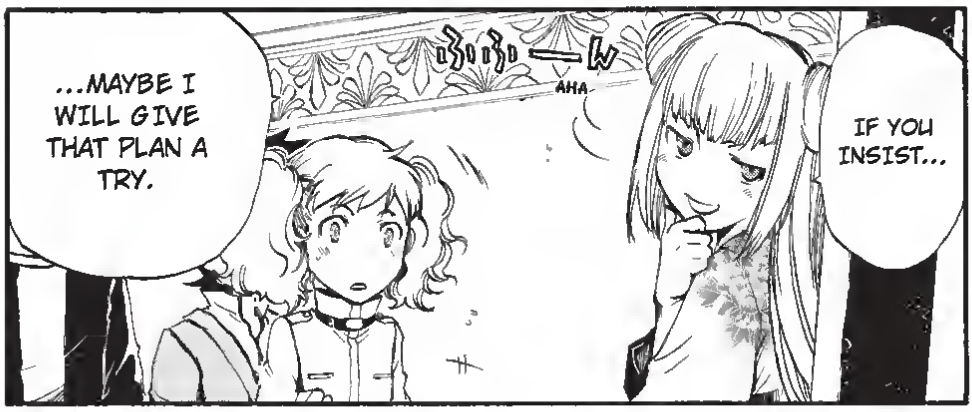

WE CAME HERE AT KIA'S SUGGESTION.
WELL?
DON'T YOU KNOW CIEL'S WHEREABOUTS YET?

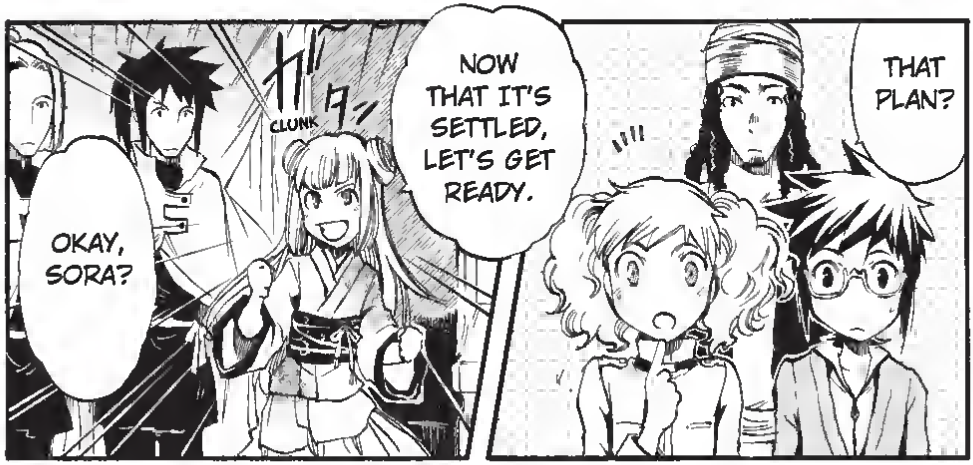

SIGH
YOU'RE ANNOYING.
STOP BEING SO RESTLESS!
WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
EVEN IF WE CAN FIND HER...
...YOU'RE POWER-LESS.
YOU SAY SO, BUT...
YOU HAVE NO WAY OF FIGHTING HER.

SIGH
BECAUSE YOU'RE AN AME-FURASHI, HUH.
OKAY, OKAY.
I'M AN AMEFU-RASHI.
I HAVE TO SAVE MY TREE.
HUH?
HOW ABOUT YOU QUIT BEING AN AMEFURASHI?
THAT'S ABSURD!
ABSURD? HOW?
THAT'S A BRIGHT IDEA I CAME UP WITH. ♡
THEN YOU WON'T BE OBLIGATED TO SAVE YOUR TREE.
YOU CAN TAKE A BREAK.

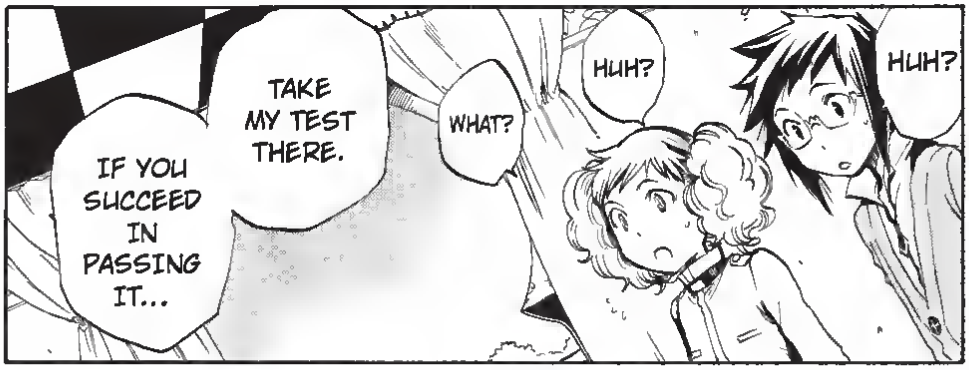
YOU CAN FIND MANY OTHER WAYS TO LIVE.
WELL...
GACK
...EVEN WITHOUT THE POWER OF AMEFURASHI.
YOU'RE ENJOYING A NORMAL LIFESTYLE...
JUST LEAVE CIEL UP TO ME.
YOU WON'T HAVE ANY TROUBLE WITHOUT YOUR TREE.
NO...
...OR EVEN MY VILLAGE.
...I CAN'T!
...SHE CAN MANAGE TO FORGET ABOUT CIEL...
IF SHE WISHES...
UH...

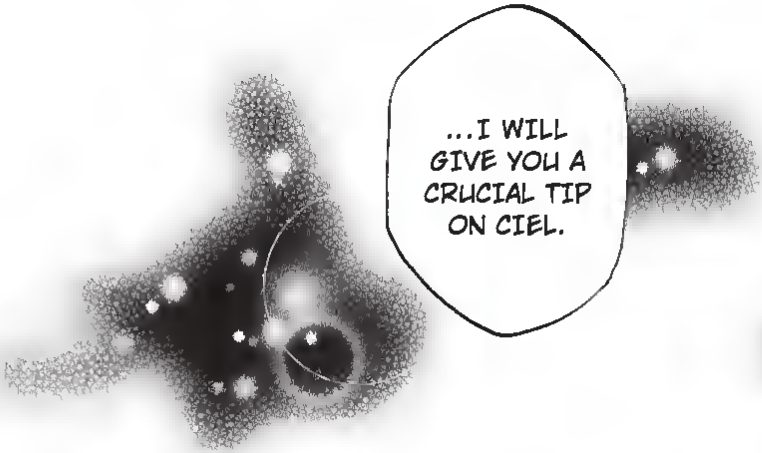

SO TELL ME HOW TO FIND CIEL NOW!
FLASH
WELL, WELL!
IT'S HARD TO EXPLAIN BUT...
...I JUST CAN'T QUIT BEING AN AMEFURASHI.


...MAYBE I WILL GIVE THAT PLAN A TRY.
AHA
IF YOU INSIST...


CLUNK
OKAY, SORA?
NOW THAT IT'S SETTLED, LET'S GET READY.
!!!!
THAT PLAN?

LET'S PUT YOUR SPIRIT TO THE TEST.
COME TO TSUKIGAIKE WITH GIMMY.


HUH?
HUH?
WHAT?
TAKE MY TEST THERE.
IF YOU SUCCEED IN PASSING IT...


...I WILL GIVE YOU A CRUCIAL TIP ON CIEL.

THIS PLACE IS EMPTY.
WHAT IS SHE UP TO?
THIS IS TSUKIGAIKE
SWOO

WHOA!
SPLASH
HUH?
GLUK
WHAT?
WAHHH!
VWOOSH
GIMMY!
VWOOSH
VWOOSH
VWOOSH
FSHH
?!

THE...
CLOUDS...
...TURNED INTO A CASTLE!
EEP
?!
MWA HA HA HA HA! YOU FELL FOR IT!

I'VE GOT YOUR PRINCESS NOW!
I'M GONZALEZ, THE PRINCE OF DARKNESS.
BAM
RAH
I'M NOT FAY! CALL ME PRINCE GONZALEZ!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, FAY?
UH...
THAT'S...
?
?
YES, YOUR HIGHNESS!
THAT'S AN ORDER, MY SERVANTS!
SCUFF
SCUFF
SCUFF

HEY, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?
EEEEEP !!
FWIP
FWIP
FWIP
YES, YOUR HIGH-NESS!
I THINK THIS PLAN WILL LIFT EVERYBODY'S SPIRITS!
FWIP
EEYAAA!
WHAT?
HUH?
BUSTLE
わら
BUSTLE
わら
BUSTLE
わら
NOW...
...WEAR THESE!
IF YOU WANT YOUR "PRINCESS" BACK!
COME TO ME.
FWIP

HAAAH?!
PRINCESS
KNIGHT
THE PRINCESS HAS FALLEN INTO MY HANDS.
フフフ
HEE HEE HEE
WOW
IT'S A RARE BOOK OF MEMOIRS OF FAMOUS INVENTORS!
OHH
YOU CAN HAVE THIS, SO LISTEN UP.
TOSS
SHIVER
HEY, WHAT'S ALL THIS?

IF YOU WANT THE TIP...
COME ON.
...SEE IF YOU CAN PASS THIS TEST!
D-DOM
BY THE WAY...
WHAT THE—!

SAVE "HER" BEFORE THE MOON HIDES BEHIND THE TREES...
...OR SHE'LL FALL HEAD-FIRST. ♡
!
DROOP
WHAT?!
I CAN GET THE TIP...
...IF I SAVE GIMMY, RIGHT?
ANY-WAY...
GLARE
THIS IS MESSED UP.
WELL, I DID SOMETHING SIMILAR.
SHE IS AN AME-FURASHI, TOO.

AGH!
SORA!
OKAY, I'M COMING!
DASH
DASH
DASH
DASH
はぁ
SLAM
WHOOSH
?!

SQUEEZE
HEY!
THIS CLOUD IS STRONG!
BUT...
WHAT?
VWOOSH
わあ
SMACK
I HAVE MY SWITCH WITH ME.
GLARE

RRROAR
RRR
...FAY IS REALLY SOMETHING.
GULP
TO MAKE THIS IN A SPLIT SECOND...
I'LL TAKE THAT CHALLENGE.
CLENCH
"SHOW ME YOUR SPIRIT."

DASH
MY PLEASURE!
DASH
I WANT TO KNOW...
WHOOSH
YOUR SUFFERING WON'T BE FOR NOTHING!
!!
PAUSE
HEE HEE HEE
JUST YOU WATCH, GIMMY.
SOB SOB SOB SOB
WHY DOES THIS KEEP HAPPENING TO ME?

AGH!
IS THAT A WAY OUT?
!!
IF ONLY I COULD SWING OVER THERE.
HUP!
SPLANG
TAP
?!

EEK!
SLUMP
CRACK
EH?
AUGH!
AAAHHH!
THUD
OUUCH.
THROB
NO WAAAY!
WHOOOOSH

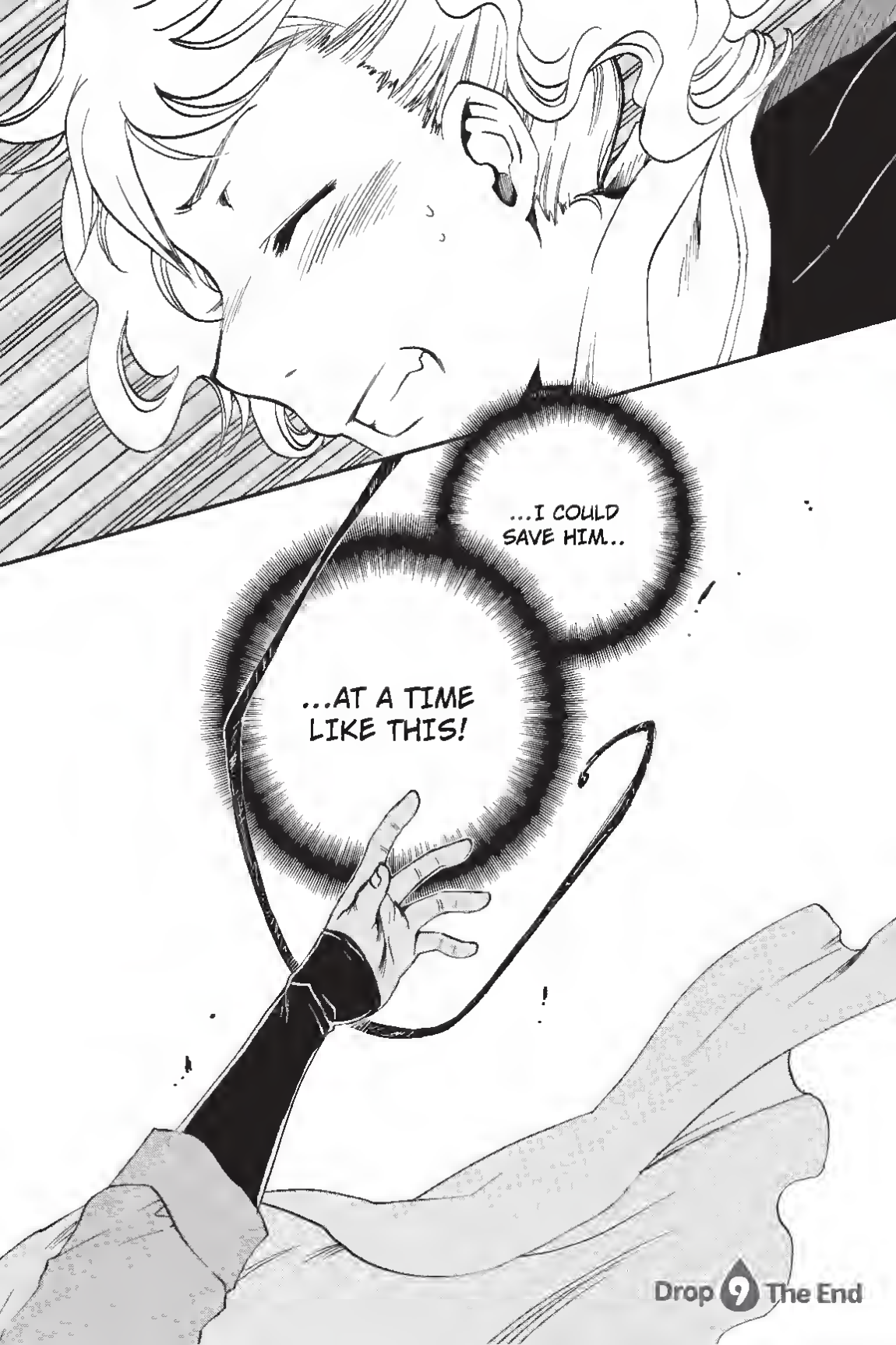
WHAT AM I DOING?
UGH!
TRY AGAIN.
I REMEMBER.
I HAVE BEEN IN THIS SITUATION BEFORE.
I WISH I COULD USE MY NIMBUS BUBBLE.
DASH
...I COULD DO ANYTHING BY MYSELF.
IF I HAD MY POWER...
BUT I COULDN'T USE IT.

HUFF
HUFF
BUT I'M ALONE NOW.
IT WAS GIMMY...
...WHO HELPED ME THAT TIME.
I NEED MY POWER.
...THE POWER SO I CAN HANDLE BEING ALONE?
DOES THIS MEAN...
...I WANT...
HUFF
!
I COULD LIVE WITHOUT IT, LIKE FAY SAID.
HUFF
DO I ACTUALLY WANT TO SAVE MY TREE...
...FOR THE POWER?
HUFF

THE BROKEN BRANCH IS REATTACHED.
NOW I CAN CROSS OVER!
!
IT'S THAT SPOT.
HMM.
SSS
YOU WERE A NICE GUY.
HUH?
SHRUP
HUH?
WHAT?
ZZ
TOO BAD, GIMMY.
TIME IS ALMOST UP.

SLUMP
WHOA!
HEY!
FAY?
ZZ
YOU'RE KID-DING!
NO OFFENSE INTENDED.
♡
AIYEEE!
!!
I'M HERE—

GIMMY!
SORA!
...HAD MY POWER...
IF I...


...I COULD SAVE HIM..
...AT A TIME LIKE THIS!

WHAT I WANT IS...
...THE POWER TO...
...SAVE SOMEONE.

Drop 10 Soft Heart

AH!
I CAN'T REACH HIM!
SPING
!
BAH
WUMP

AHHH!!
WHOOOOSH
GIMMY!
SORA!
GRASP
AGK!
WHOOSH

UH-OH.
THIS IS BAD!
WHOOSH
PLEASE!
HELP ME!
TWITCH

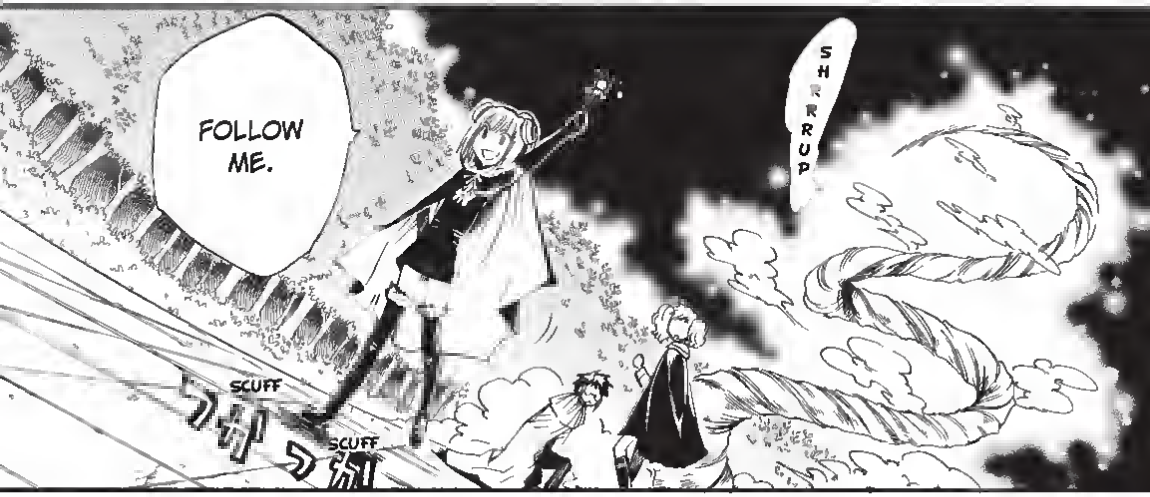
VWOOSH
わっ
WUMPP
!!
……
UH...
……?
DID WE MAKE IT?

FWAA
!
FAY!
WELL...
...LET'S SAY YOU RESCUED HIM JUST IN TIME.
HUH?
BUT... ...DIDN'T I USE YOUR HELP WITH THIS CLOUD?
AREN'T YOU GOING TO SAY I FAILED?
HA HA.

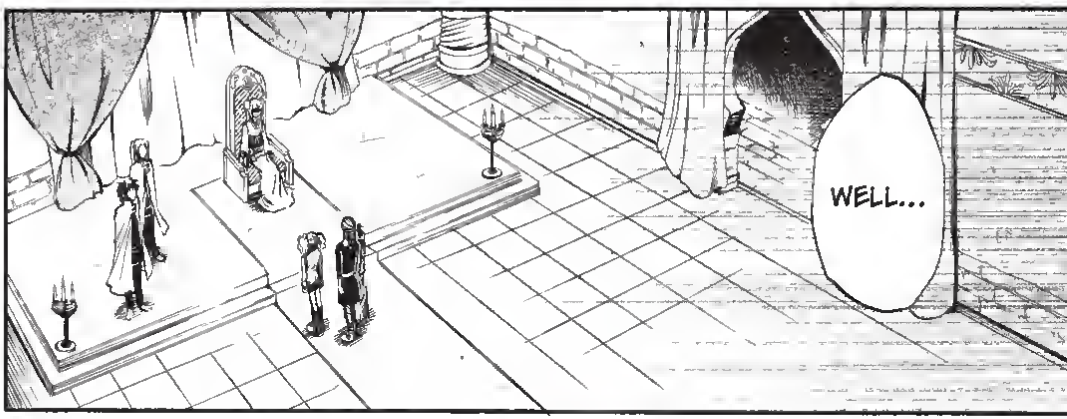
IT WASN'T ME.
YOU MOVED IT.
IT WAS WORTH A TRIAL.
.....?
LET'S TALK ABOUT THIS IN MY ROOM.
NEVER MIND.
FLIP

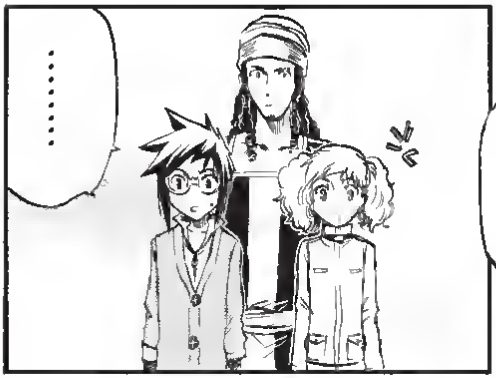
FSHH
HH

SHRUP
WHOA!
THUD


FOLLOW ME.
SHRRRUP
SCUFF
SCUFF

WHAT IS THIS ABOUT?
.....?


WELL...


.....

IT'S ABOUT THE TIP ON CIEL...
...YOU WANT TO KNOW.

TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH...

...I DON'T HAVE IT.
COOL
クール
IT
PEFFECTLY
HUH?
WHAT?
WE'RE COLLECTING INFORMATION, TO BE PRECISE.
COOL
クール
WE SHOULD KNOW HER WHEREABOUTS IN A WHILE.
HEY!
THEN WHAT DID I GO THROUGH YOUR TEST FOR?
THAT'S IT.
?!

SORA.
YOU JUST USED YOUR POWER.
MY POWER?
THAT CASTLE IS PART OF MY TREE.
AND...
...YOU MANIPULATED IT.
THAT WASN'T YOUR POWER?
I SHOULD BE POWERLESS AND...
...I NEVER MANIPULATED OTHER TREES.
POWERLESS...
...HUH.

IT'S TRUE...
...THAT, WITH ITS CORE MISSING, YOUR TREE IS IN DANGER.
...THE POWER CORE THAT CONNECTS YOU TO YOUR TREE HASN'T BEEN DESTROYED. IT'S STILL FUNCTIONAL.
BUT...
IT TRANSFORMS ITS MASTER'S FEELINGS INTO POWER—POWER THAT COURSES THROUGH THE TREE.
THIS IS WHY...
...AN AMEFURASHI CAN'T BE CONNECTED TO A TREE ALONE.
...IS ABOUT.
THAT'S WHAT THE TREE AND MASTER ACTING AS ONE...

YOU DEVELOP...
...DEEP COMPASSION FROM BEING AROUND OTHER PEOPLE.
OTHER PEOPLE...
.....?
HUH?
...YOU'RE AWARE OF THIS, AREN'T YOU?
SORA..
WELL, IT'S NOT JUST ONE PERSON.
?
FLINCH
?
GLANCE
.....

...THE FACE OF THE WORLD.
IT'S THE PEOPLE YOU FIRST MET AFTER YOU CAME DOWN FROM YOUR TREE...
THEY PRODUCE THE NEW POWER WITHOUT YOUR KNOWLEDGE.
THE POWER...
DID SORA MANIPULATE YOUR TREE...
...WITH THAT POWER?
.....
IT WAS SYNCHRO-NISM.
SHE PROBABLY USED IT SUBCON-SCIOUSLY.

IT'S THE POWER THAT MAKES YOUR HEART SOFTEN.
IF YOU FACE THEM WITH OBSTINACY...
...BOTH SIDES WILL BE COMPRO-MISED.
SOFTEN?
?
EXCUSE ME, YOUR HIGH-NESS!
TMP
TMP
TMP
TMP
THERE IS ACTIVITY!
BAH
CLUNK
!

IT MUST BE CIEL.
.....
WHAT?
WHERE WAS THIS?
BY THE ANCIENT RUINS IN THE WEST...
...IN A VALLEY WHERE THE ANCIENT CAPITAL WAS LOCATED.
WHOOSH

HARK!
MY TREE.
PUT DOWN YOUR ROOTS IN THIS LAND.
GIVE ME THE MIGHTIEST POWER...
...IN THE WORLD.

DAZED
SHFF
NOW...
...LET ME NOURISH YOU DEEPLY.
FSHH
CRACK
CRACK
POAA

FROOSH
ROOSH
ROOSH
CRACK
CRACK
RAH
AHH
BECOME A FINE TREE.

GROARRR
MY KING.
NOW...
...IS THE TIME.

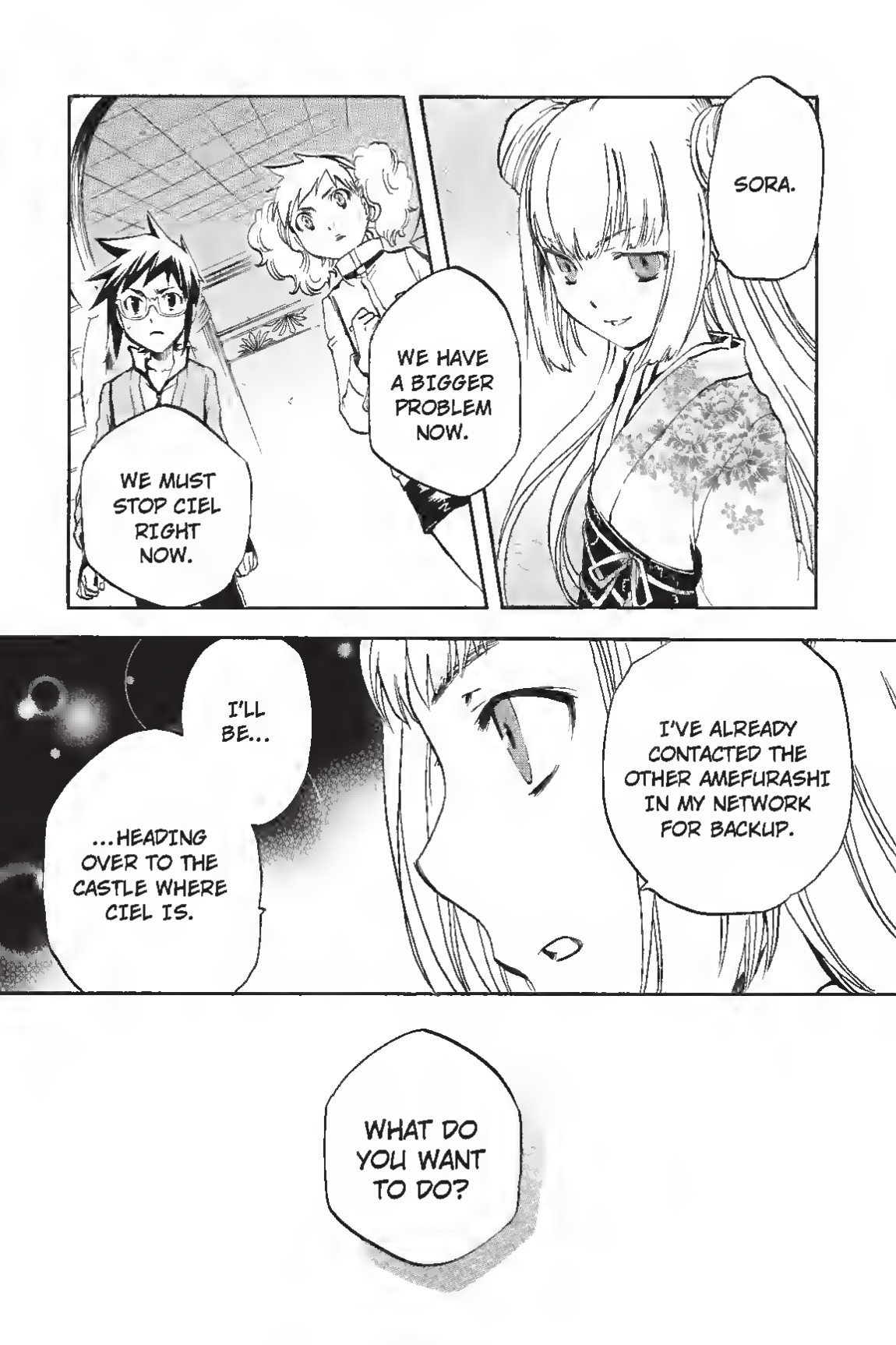
TO REGAIN THE POWER OVER THE WORLD...
GROARRRR
...THAT WOMAN SNATCHED AWAY FROM YOU.

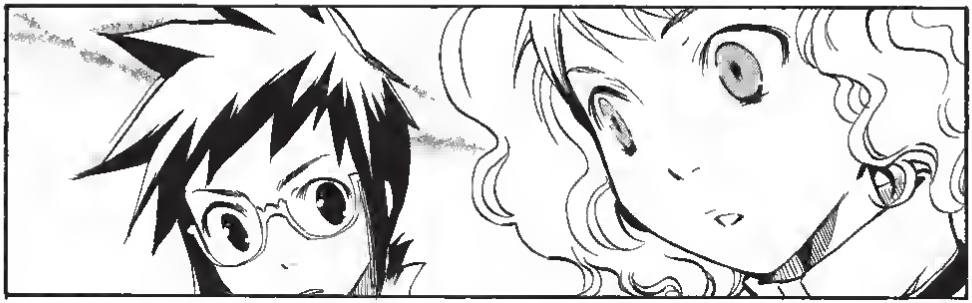
IT'S NO MISTAKE, MEL!
TMP
TMP
TMP
YES.
IT'S THAT ROUND THING SORA WAS RIDING.
TMP
FWAA
I BET IT'S GIMMY AND SORA!
TMP
TMP
TMP
IT WENT DOWN IN THAT DIREC-TION.
AH!
YEOW!
POP
THUD

KAFF
SPIT
ARGHH...
THAT WAS FAST.
IT MADE ME A BIT AIRSICK.
HM?
YO!
YOU CAME FOR ME?
DARYL?
.....
WHOOSH
HEY, YOU TWO.
IS IT ME, OR DO YOU LOOK DISAP-POINTED?
YES.
!

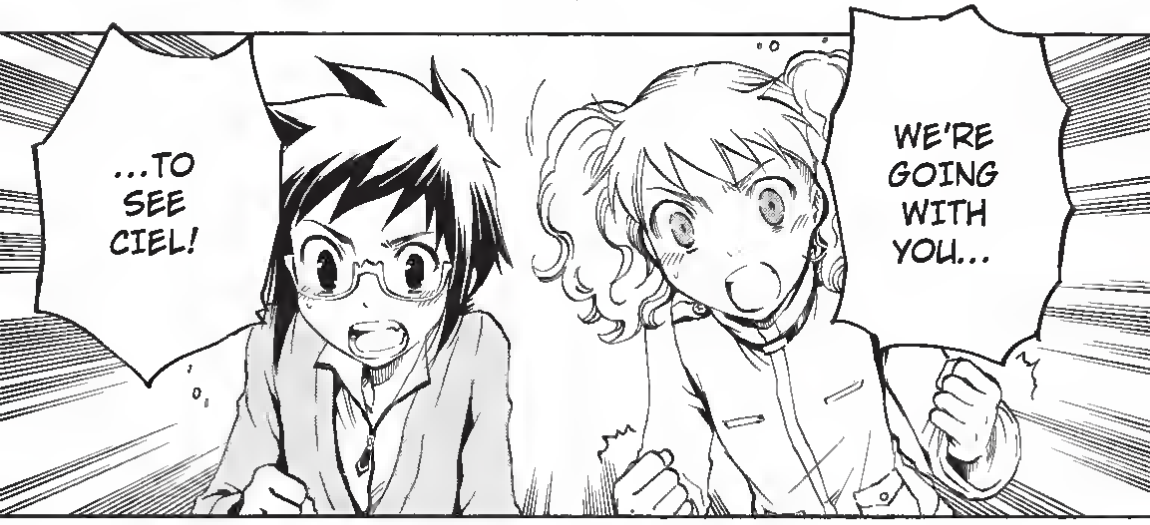
YO!
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, WISE OLD MAN.
I'M RELIEVED THAT IT'S NOT MY TIME YET.
BWA HA HA HA
WHAT HAPPENED, DARYL?
I'VE GOT A FAVOR TO ASK YOU.
?
THERE'S A REASON I CAME BACK HERE.
WELL.
THAT DARN CIEL.

SHE HAS ALWAYS BEEN IMPATIENT, THOUGH.
?
I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE WOULD PULL THIS OFF SO SOON.
MUTTER
.....
I GUESS... THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE.
Z-ZAPP
IT SEEMS THE FOREST IN QUESTION IS GROWING AT AN ASTOUNDING RATE.
WE HAVE A FOLLOW-UP REPORT!
ARE WE GOING TO PAY CIEL A VISIT?
SO?

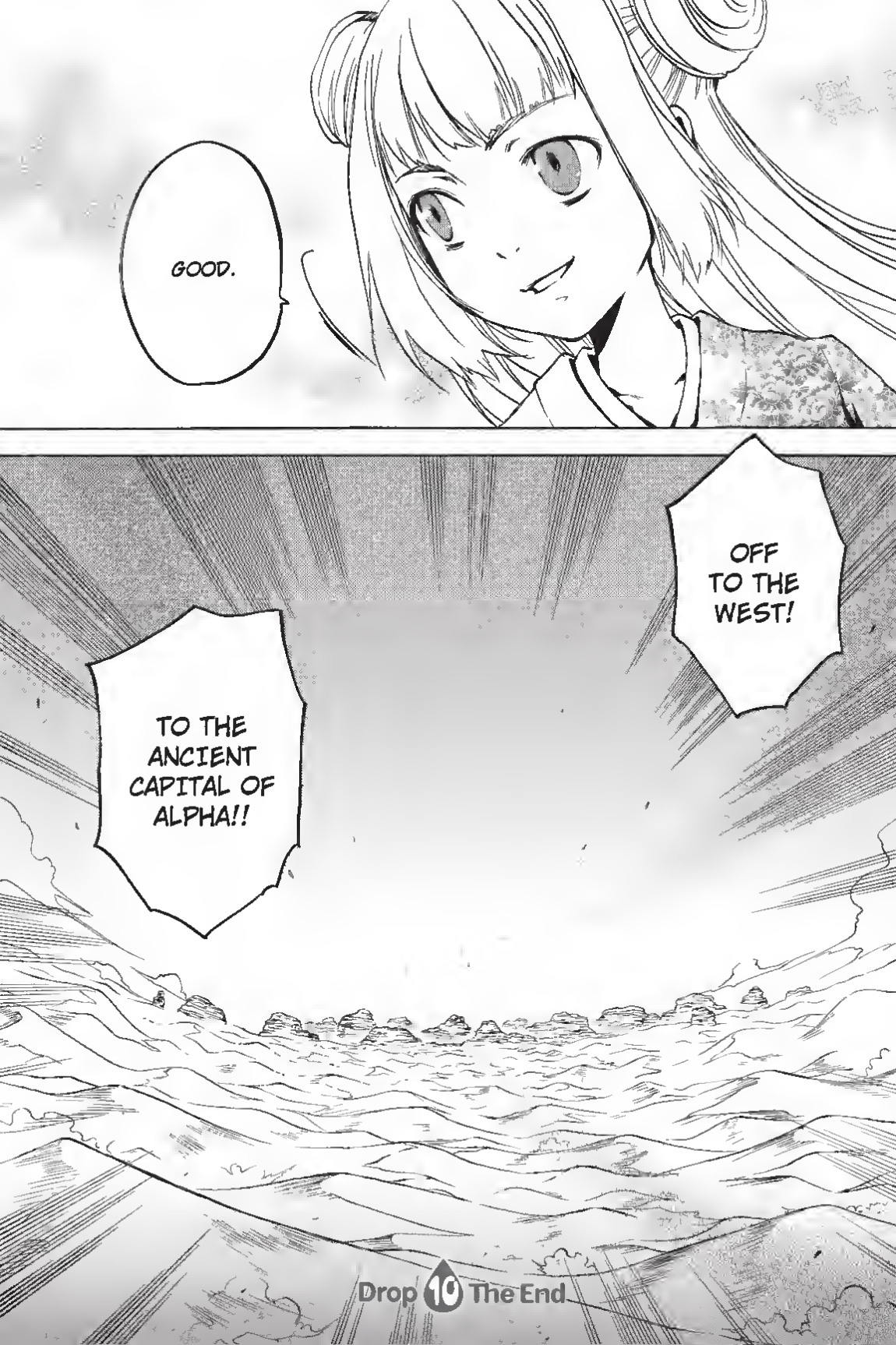

SORA.
WE HAVE A BIGGER PROBLEM NOW.
WE MUST STOP CIEL RIGHT NOW.
I'VE ALREADY CONTACTED THE OTHER AMEFURASHI IN MY NETWORK FOR BACKUP.
I'LL BE...
...HEADING OVER TO THE CASTLE WHERE CIEL IS.
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?

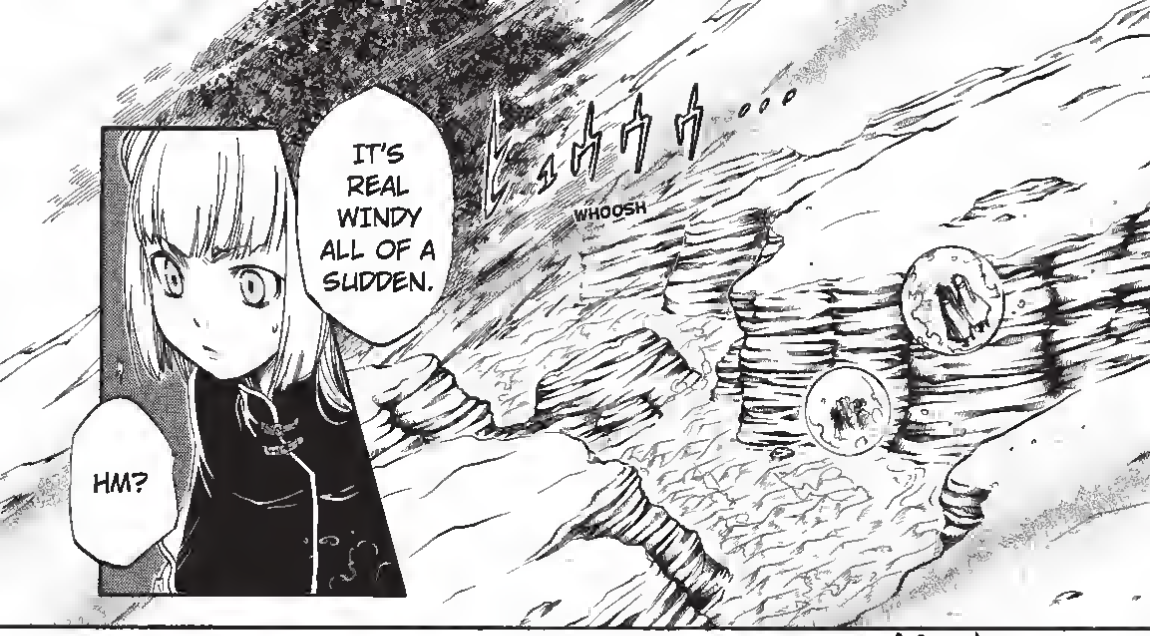


OF COURSE.


...TO SEE CIEL!
WE'RE GOING WITH YOU...

IT'S WHAT WE'RE HERE FOR.
HMPH
NO PROBLEM!
YOU MIGHT GET A LITTLE FRIGHTENED AGAIN.
GRIN
YOU KNOW...

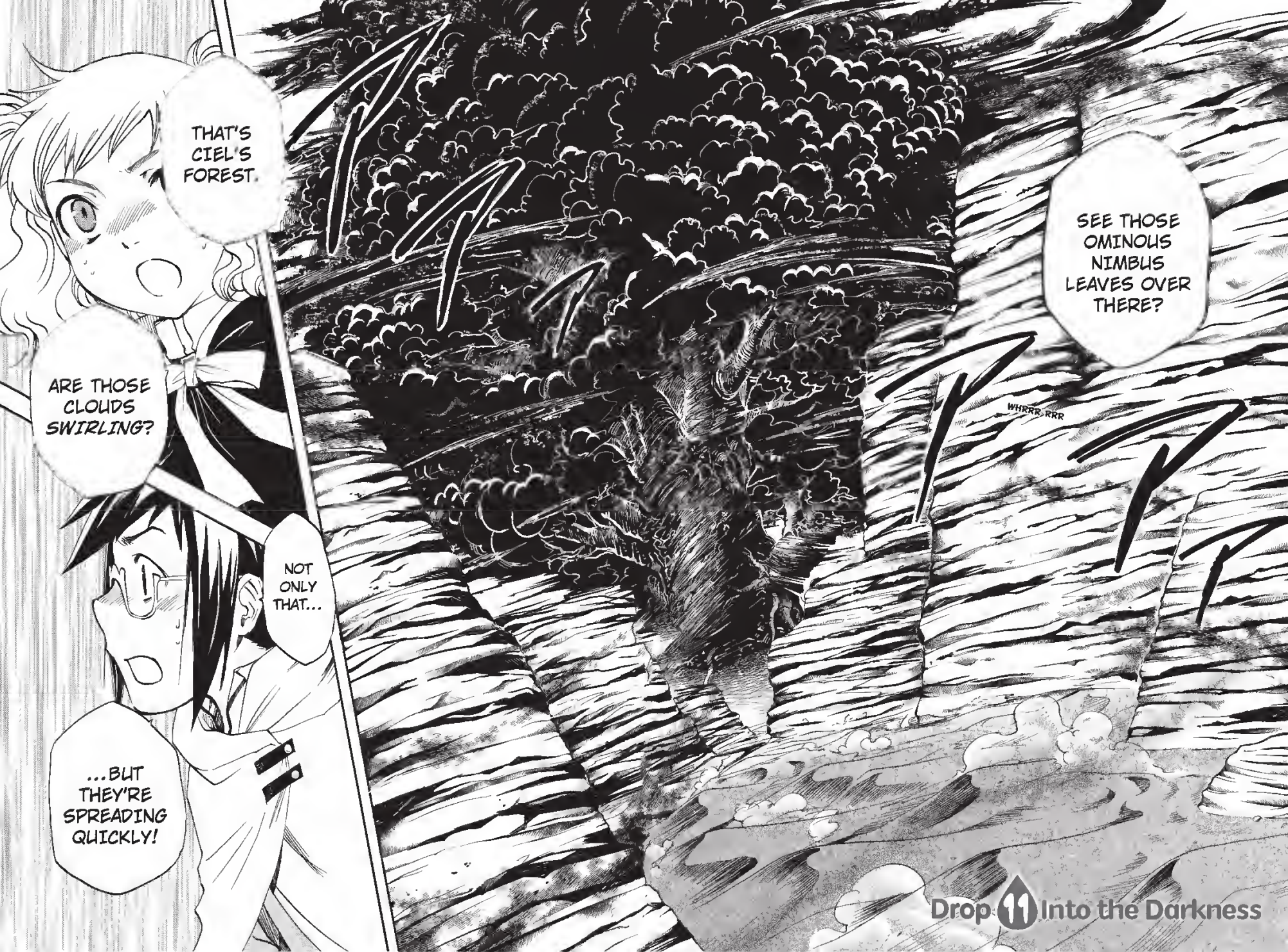

GOOD.
OFF TO THE WEST!
TO THE ANCIENT CAPITAL OF ALPHA!!


IT'S REAL WINDY ALL OF A SUDDEN.
HM?
WHOOSH

EEK!
WAH!
WHOOSH

PHEW
THAT WAS CLOSE.
LOOK.
WE'RE STILL FAR AWAY FROM THE FOREST.
WHAT HAPPENED JUST NOW?

WHOAA!
POP


THAT'S CIEL'S FOREST.
ARE THOSE CLOUDS SWIRLING?
NOT ONLY THAT...
...BUT THEY'RE SPREADING QUICKLY!
SEE THOSE OMINOUS NIMBUS LEAVES OVER THERE?
WHRRR RRR

WITH THAT TORNADO...
WHRR
WHRR
...OUR BUBBLE WOULD GET SUCKED INTO AND TRAPPED IN IT.
WE'D GET FLUNG AROUND UNTIL WE DIE!
EEK!
MAYBE IT'S CONTROLLING THE POWER OF CAPTIVE AME-FURASHI. WHAT A NEGATIVE FORCE.
AT THAT GROWTH RATE, ITS LEAVES WILL SOON REACH SURROUNDING VILLAGES AND TOWNS.
IT'LL DESTROY MANY TREES AND MUCH LAND.
JUST WHEN WE NEED TO STOP IT AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE.
WHRRRR
WE HAVE NO CHOICE BUT TO GO ON FOOT FROM HERE.

NO, WE CAN'T.
...DON'T WANT TO SEE ANOTHER DEVASTATION.
GIMMY?
I...
?
...WE NEED TO HURRY!
GRR
THAT'S WHY...
CAN YOU CUT THE NIMBUS BUBBLE IN HALF?
HEY, FAY.
HUH?
I KNOW!
はっ GASP
IS THERE A WAY TO CATCH AND USE IT?
THIS WIND...
WHOOSH

AH!
WHOOSH
YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT HIM, HUH?
DON'T WORRY.
NOOGIE NOOGIE
I SUD-DENLY FELT UNEASY.
I'M SORRY.
SORA GAVE THIS TO YOU. DON'T LOSE IT.
SNATCH
WHOA!
DARYL!
HE'LL DEAL WITH ISSUES WHEN THEY COME UP.
HIS LOOKS CAN BE DECEIVING.

HM?
THAT WAS THE CASE WHEN I MET HIM.
!!
.....?
WHAT I FOUND THERE WAS A LITTLE KID.

HE WAS PROBABLY ORPHANED OR SEPARATED FROM HIS PARENTS.
PLEASE, GIVE THEM...
GOOD.
I FIGURED SOMEONE WOULD PASS HERE.
IT WAS RIGHT WHERE THE VILLAGE GOT WASHED AWAY RECENTLY.
HEY, ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
BABIES?!
THEY'RE TWINS.
...SOME WATER
SWOO
GIVE MIL AND MEL...
?!
FLAP
WHAT IN THE WORLD...
.....!

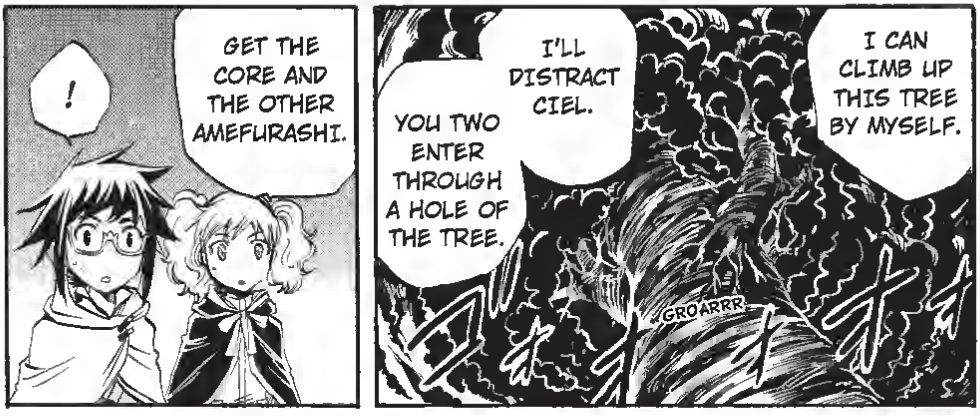
HIS ARMS AND LEGS WERE COVERED IN LITTLE WOUNDS.
YOU WERE...
...PROTECTING THEM?
YOU DID...
...A GOOD JOB, BOY.
HERE.
HAVE SOME WATER AND FOOD.
AFTER YOU EAT THAT, HOP ON.
I'LL TAKE YOU TO MY VILLAGE.

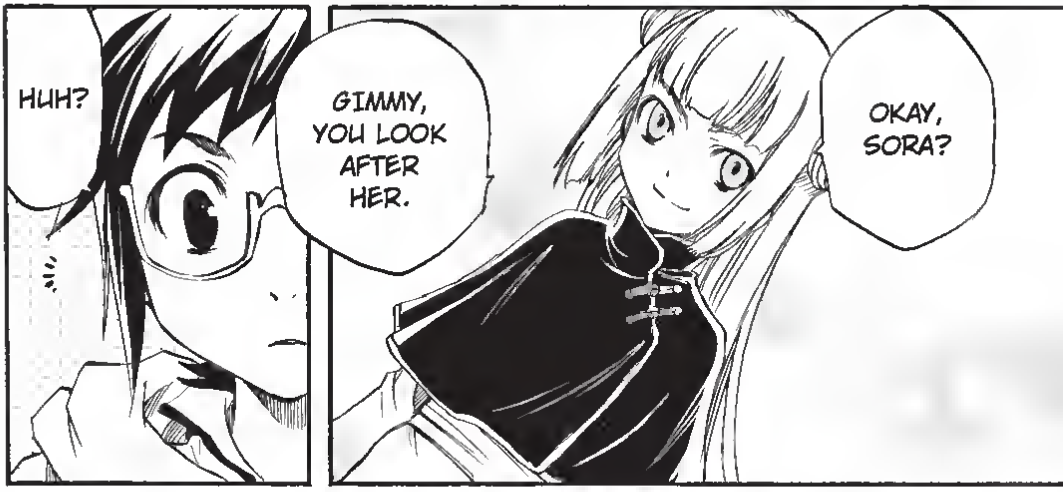
BUMP
I CAN ASSURE YOU OF THAT.
HE'S GOT GUTS.
GRIN
HE'S GOT...
AND REMEMBER.
WE SHOULD DO WHAT WE CAN.
...THE REAL GODDESS OF VICTORY WITH HIM.

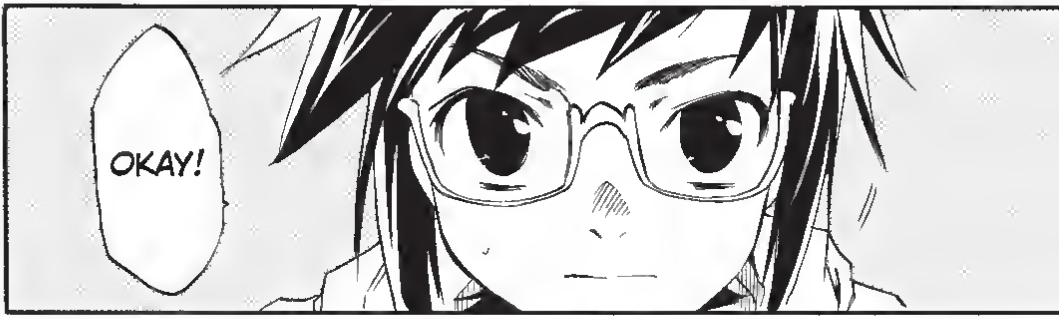
ZSHH
SHHH
WE...
WE DID IT!
IT'S MOVING!
ZSHHH

?!
GAH
HEE HEE HEE HEE
I KNEW I COULD COUNT ON SORA'S MAN.
?
AHA, IT'S A SHIP!
I'M IMPRESSED, GIMMY!
?
?
HEY, WHOEVER SAID THAT?!
RAHH
THIS WILL GET US TO THE FOREST IN NO TIME!
ANYWAY...
ALPHA WAS ONCE THE CAPITAL THAT CONQUERED THE WORLD.
SINCE I LAST SAW IT...

GROAR
...IT'S BECOME SOMETHING OF A SORRY SIGHT.
I SUSPECT THE CORES AND THE AMEFURASHI ARE INSIDE.
OUR TOP PRIORITY IS TO REGAIN YOUR CORE FOR POWER TO STOP CIEL.
HUH?
HOLD IT, SORA.
WE SHOULD GET UP THERE NOW.
SO, CIEL IS ON TOP OF THIS TREE.


!
GET THE CORE AND THE OTHER AMEFURASHI.
I'LL DISTRACT CIEL.
YOU TWO ENTER THROUGH A HOLE OF THE TREE.
I CAN CLIMB UP THIS TREE BY MYSELF.
GROARRR


HUH?
GIMMY, YOU LOOK AFTER HER.
OKAY, SORA?


OKAY!

TWITCH
OH?
...HAVE ARRIVED SOONER THAN EXPECTED.
LOOKS LIKE SOME NEW NUTRIENTS...
LET'S ACCEPT THEM GRATEFULLY.
WHA...
GROAR
オオオ...

WHAT'S THIS?
I COULDN'T TELL FROM BELOW...
...BUT THIS TREE IS FULL OF CAVITIES.

LET'S GO INSIDE, SORA!
IT'S TOO WINDY OUT HERE.
UH...
...YES!

"...REFLECTS A MASTER'S SPIRITUAL VOID."
"A TREE CAVITY..."
.....

G-GIMMY!
WATCH YOUR STEP.
OKAY.
LISTEN.
THIS TIME...
...DON'T WANDER OFF FROM ME!
TUG
SCUFF
SCUFF
SCUFF
PFFT
ALL RIGHT.
.....
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

I-IT'S SO DARK.
IT LOOKS VERY DIFFERENT FROM YOUR TREE.
.....!!
I FEEL...
...KIND OF SICK.
WE SHOULD HURRY.
IS SHE BEING EXPOSED TO NEGATIVE POWER?
.....!
HANG IN THERE!
GROARRRRR
!
AGK!

?
SORA?
LOOK OVER THERE.

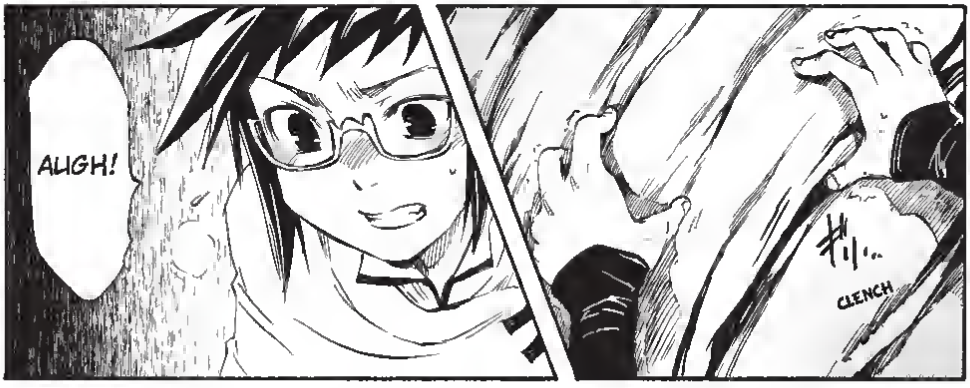
!
FLINCH
I'M ABOUT TO LOSE MY MIND.
SQUEEZE

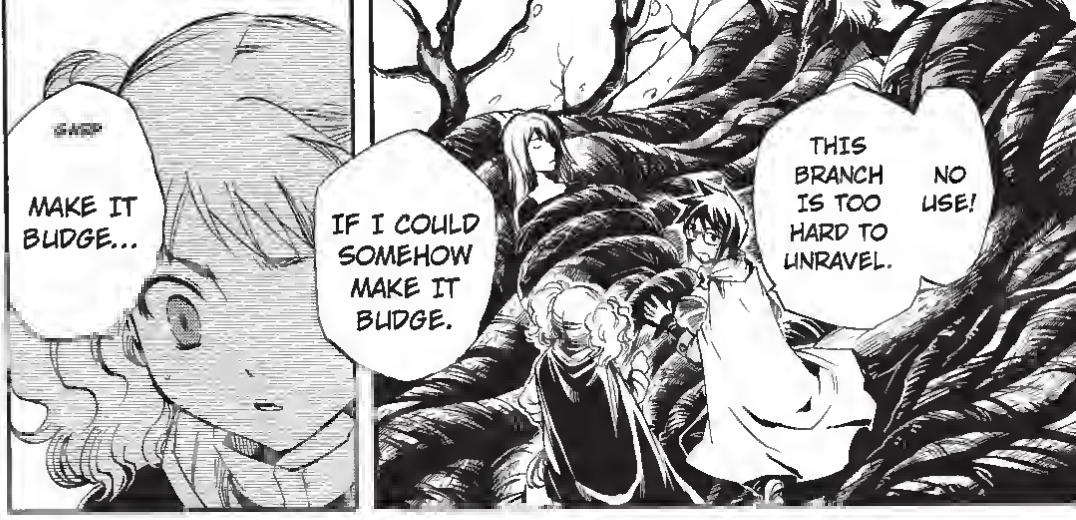
HUFF
WE WALKED PRETTY FAR...
...BUT IT ALL LOOKS THE SAME!

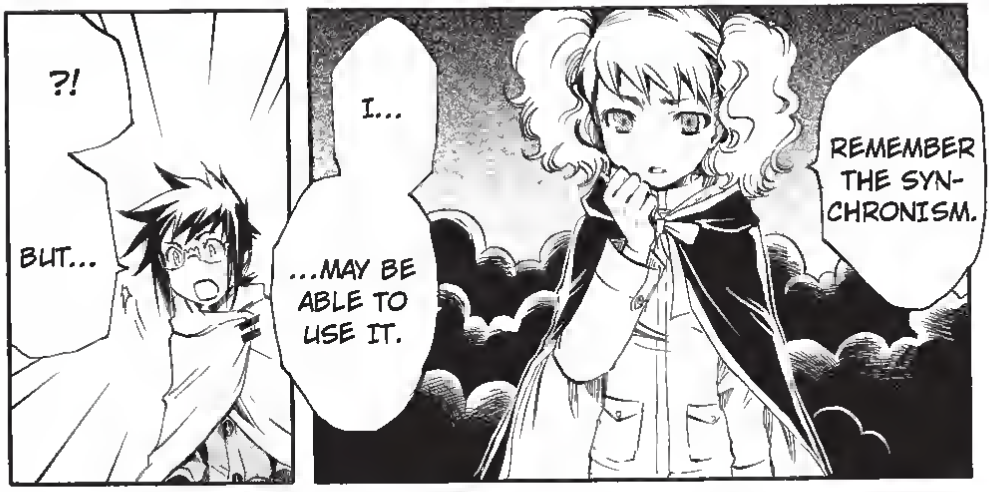
WHAT...
...IS THAT?
TH-THUMP
TH-THUMP

GROAR
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, CIEL.
I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU FOR A LONG TIME...
YES.

GROARR
RR
...MASTER.


AUGH!
CLENCH


GASP
MAKE IT BUDGE...
IF I COULD SOMEHOW MAKE IT BUDGE.
THIS BRANCH IS TOO HARD TO UNRAVEL.
NO USE!


?!
BUT...
I...
...MAY BE ABLE TO USE IT.
REMEMBER THE SYN-CHRONISM.

I WILL GIVE IT A TRY.
I DON'T HAVE MUCH CHOICE, DO I?
CAN YOU USE IT TO SYNCHRONIZE YOUR MIND WITH CIEL'S?
IS THAT POS-SIBLE?
SORA.

.....
STEP BACK, GIMMY.
SHFF
M...
FWOO
WOO
AH...

THIS EMOTION.
YES.
I'M FAMILIAR WITH THIS.
AUGH!
SHIVER
SORA...
SHRRUP
!

SHRRUP
しゅるる…
!!
I KNOW THIS.
YES.

YES.
WAY TO GO, SORA!

GREAT!
IT MOVED.

IT'S LONELINESS.
IT'S NO MISTAKE.
SHRUP
HUH?
VROOSH

SQUEEZE
SHFF
HEY, SORA!
HEY!
GLUK
WHOA!
GLUK
GLUK
COME ON.
YOU'RE GETTING IT WRONG...
...I'M SAYING—

S-
SORA...?

GROARR
ROAR
CIEL.
I WON'T GO EASY ON YOU.
I'LL TAKE THAT CHALLENGE.
MASTER FAY.

Drop 12 Behind the Wall

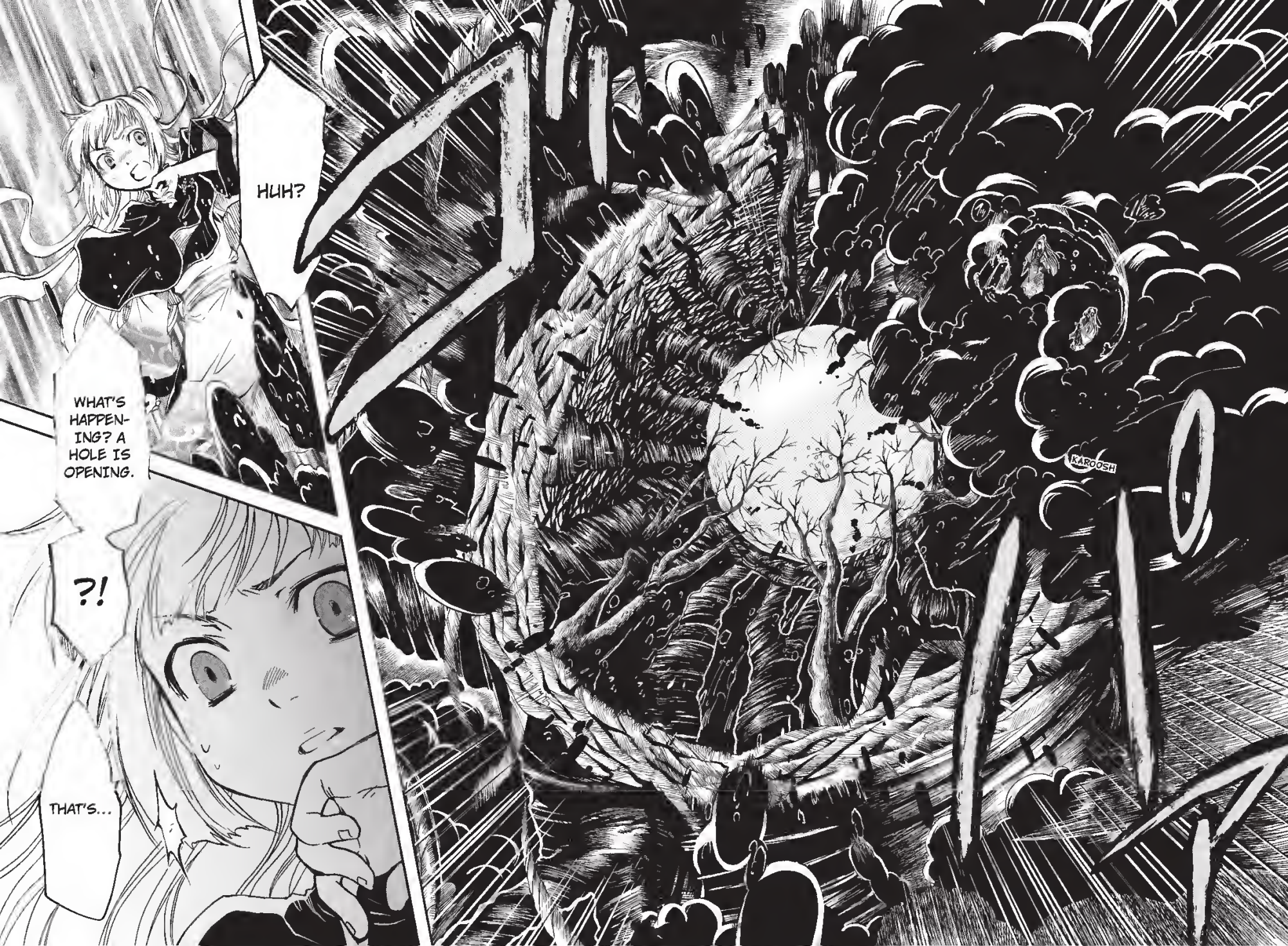
BAH
NIMBUS BULLETS!
RAT-A
TAT
TATAT
SHFF
CLENCH
HEH!
VOOSH
VROOSH
VROOSH
VROOSH

!!
PSHOOM
MM...
I'M SURPRISED YOU COULD REPEL ALL THESE BULLETS.
HEH-HEH.
APPAR-ENTLY...
...YOU, THE FIRST AMEFURASHI ON EARTH...
...ARE STILL POWERFUL.
BUT...

CIEL.
TELL ME WHY.
WHY ARE YOU TRYING TO GO ASTRAY?
THIS IS MY TREE.
I WON'T LET YOU DO AS YOU WISH.
HOW IT FEELS TO BE INFERIOR, TO ALWAYS BE IN SECOND PLACE...
...TO BE HUMILI-ATED...
.....
HEH
YOU HAVE ALWAYS LED A CHARMED LIFE.
YOU CAN NEVER UNDER-STAND THIS.

...FROM LIVING IN THE WORLD YOU CREATED.
...OR THE FEELING OF DEFEAT THAT COMES...
CIEL...
.....
DON'T TELL ME!
...WITH THE KING WHO ONCE DESTROYED THIS PLACE.
GROAR
...I'M GOING TO CREATE A WORLD THAT NEEDS ME...
THAT'S WHY...

WE WILL...
POOF
...DESTROY THE WORLD— AND THEN CREATE IT ANEW.
THAT MAN IS...!
GROARRR
RRR
?!

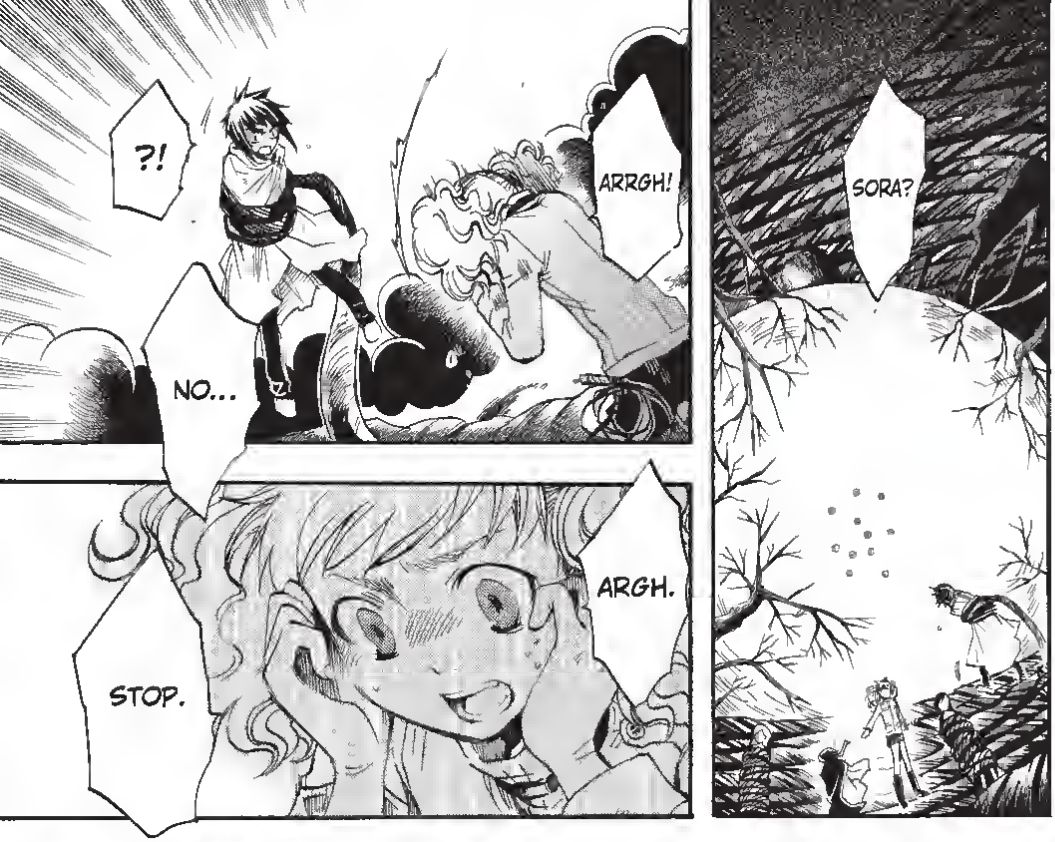

HUH?
WHAT'S HAPPEN-ING? A HOLE IS OPENING.
?!
THAT'S...
KAROOSH

SO...
SORA?!
WAHH!
AGK!
THUD
?!
GIMMY!

WHAT'S WRONG, SORA?
WHY ARE YOU SUDDENLY FREAKING OUT?
SWOOSH
.....
?!
WHAM
!!
YOU STAY QUIET, PEST.

THERE YOU ARE.
LITTLE MASTER.
HOLD ON, GIMMY!
ARGH!
KAFF
COME OVER HERE.
DAZED

GRASP
GOOD GIRL.
WHAT A NICE EXPRESSION IN YOUR EYES.
IT'S THE SAME...
...LONELY LOOK I HAVE.
WELL...
...SORA TRIED TO RESCUE THE CAPTIVE AMEFURASHI USING THE SYNCHRONISM.
THEN...
GIMMY, WHAT HAPPENED?


?!
ARRGH!
NO...
ARGH.
STOP.
SORA?

HA HA HA.
YES.

WHAT'S WRONG, SORA?
!
HA...

.....!!
FLINCH

I REMEMBER NOW.
TUG
!
I'M NOT...
...GOING BACK TO THAT TREE.
HUH?
TUG
WHOA!
TUG
SHFF

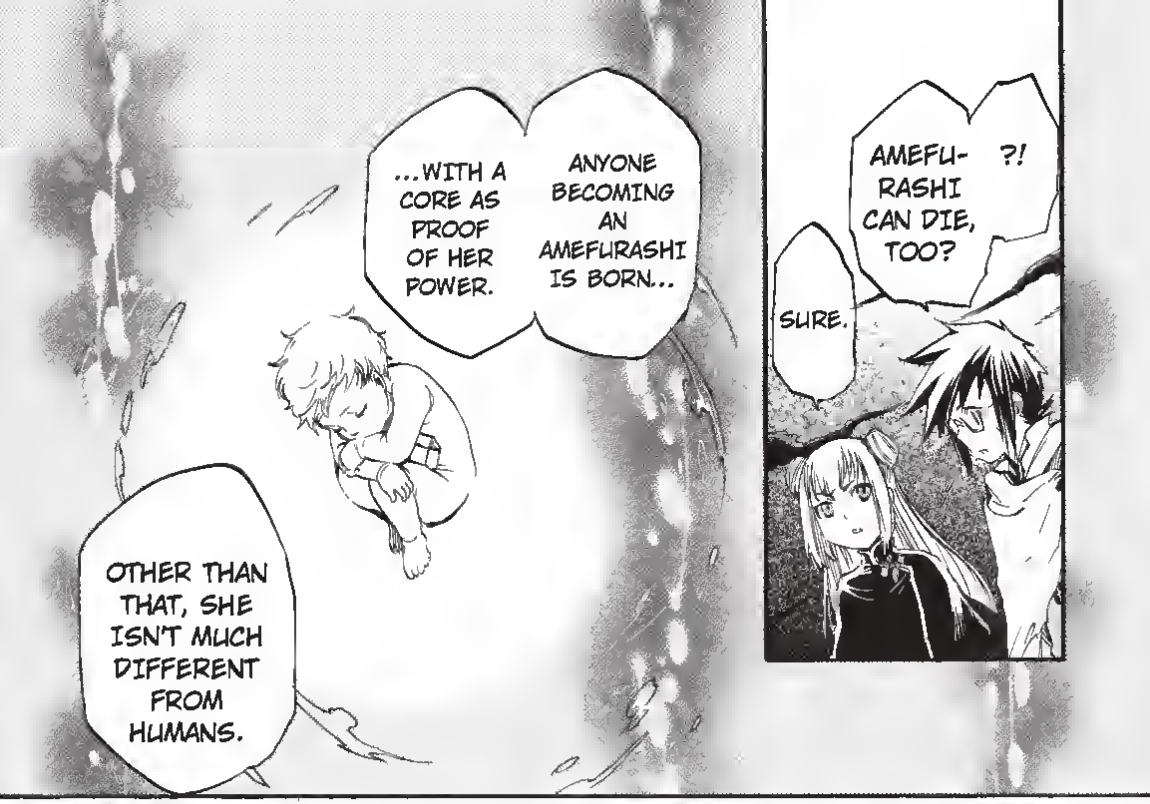
GROAR
RRR
R-
RRRMMMBBLL
AHHH
KAROOSH
?!
GAINING SUCH POWER MEANS...
SO SHE BLEW OFF THE TOP OF THE TREE.

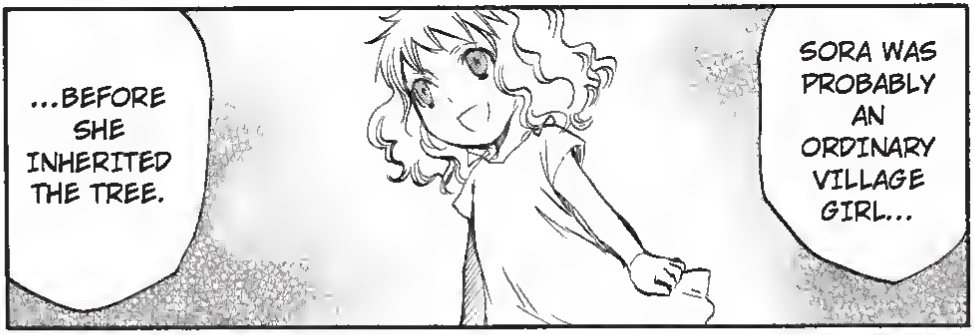
...SHE HAS SYNCHRONIZED WITH CIEL'S NEGATIVE EMOTIONS!
!
DOES THAT MEAN...
...SHE HAS BEEN POSSESSED BY CIEL?
THAT'S A RUDE WAY OF PUTTING IT.
WE'RE ALIKE TO BEGIN WITH.
LIES!
PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER, SORA.
YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN, HAVE YOU?

WE'RE GOING TO GET THE POWER CORE BACK FROM CIEL!
WE'RE GOING TO SAVE...
...YOUR TREE AND OUR VILLAGE!
I TOLD YOU.
I'M NOT GOING BACK.

THINK BACK NOW...
...I WAS CHAINED TO THAT TREE.
THAT'S RIGHT.
RR
RRR
GROAR
BEING AMEFURASHI MEANS...
...NOTHING MORE THAN JUST MAKING THE RAIN.

EVER SINCE THE PREVIOUS MASTER PASSED THAT TREE ON TO ME...
...I COULDN'T REALLY GET AWAY FROM IT.
HA HA
YES.
A GOD IS THE PEOPLE'S SLAVE.
YOU DON'T WANT TO GO BACK TO THAT, DO YOU?
...PASSED AWAY...
...BEFORE SHE COULD TEACH HER HOW TO BE AROUND PEOPLE.
THE AMEFURASHI BEFORE SORA...
YOU'RE RIGHT.


ANYONE BECOMING AN AMEFURASHI IS BORN...
...WITH A CORE AS PROOF OF HER POWER.
OTHER THAN THAT, SHE ISN'T MUCH DIFFERENT FROM HUMANS.
AMEFU- RASHI CAN DIE, TOO? ?!
SURE.


...BEFORE SHE INHERITED THE TREE.
SORA WAS PROBABLY AN ORDINARY VILLAGE GIRL...

...WHILE KEEPING THEIR DISTANCE OUT OF FEAR.
THEY FLATTER US FOR THEIR ADVAN- TAGE...

HUMANS ARE SELFISH BEINGS.
.....

I ADMIT IT.
I WAS A LITTLE AFRAID OF THE GODDESS AT FIRST.
NO.
THAT'S NOT TRUE!
BUT ONCE I GOT TO KNOW HER, I REALIZED...
...SHE CAN LAUGH, CRY AND GET ANGRY...
...JUST LIKE THE REST OF US.
WE EVEN BECAME FRIENDS—
STOP!
SORA?
.....

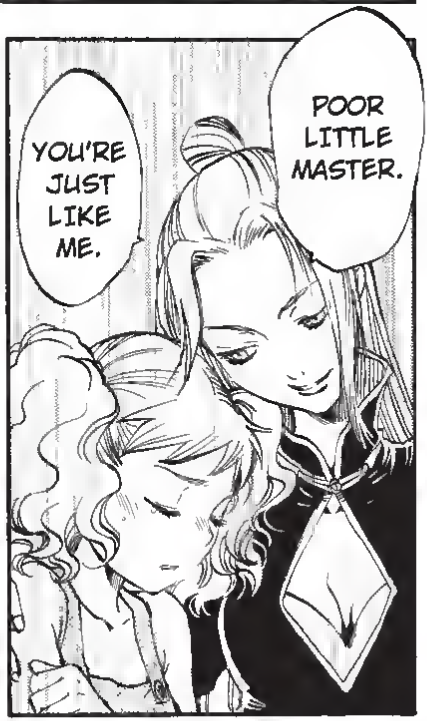
CAN YOU IMAGINE THE LONELINESS SHE EXPERI-ENCED?
WHAT DO YOU KNOW ABOUT HER?
PFFT
COME ON, BOY.
SHE'S BEEN HOLDING HERSELF BACK. SHE'S ONLY BEEN PRETENDING TO UNDERSTAND WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A GOD.
BUT PEOPLE KEPT EXPLOITING HER.
IT CAN'T BE!
THAT'S RIGHT.
IF ONLY I...
...HADN'T MET YOU THAT DAY...

...I COULD HAVE GONE ON LYING TO MYSELF!
I SAID...
FWOO
SORA!
DON'T COME NEAR ME.
FWOO
LEAVE ME ALONE!

STAY AWAY FROM ME!
VROOOOSH
?!
WHAT'S THAT?
IT'S THE BARRIER!
SMIRK
ニヤ
SO...
STOP, GIMMY!
GRAB

GROARR
IF YOU TOUCH IT, IT COULD COST YOU YOUR LIFE!
THAT WALL IS LOADED WITH NEGATIVE ENERGY.
RR
!!

LET'S CREATE A WORLD WITHOUT SADNESS TOGETHER...
...USING THE FOREST'S GREAT POWER


POOR LITTLE MASTER.
YOU'RE JUST LIKE ME.

...WE MUST TURN ALL THE WORLD'S GODS AND PEOPLE INTO ASHES FOR FERTILIZER.
BUT TO DO THAT...
YOU KNOW.
GWAR
GASP
UH-OH, BACK OFF, GIM—
!!
RR
BAH
SORA!
GIMMY!!

GIMMY! YOU FOOL.
COME BACK!
WOOSH
AAARGHHH!!
WOOSH
I FEEL LIKE I'M BEING RIPPED APART.
DID I...
SORA...!
SO...
WOOSH
HOW LONG CAN YOU TAKE THIS?
PFFT PFFT
WHAT A SILLY BOY.
...HURT YOUR FEELINGS?
"WHY ARE YOU STILL HERE?"
"WHAT, PEST?"

EVEN...
GROAR
RRR
RR
EVEN SO...
I'M GLAD TO HAVE MET YOU!
IF YOU'RE... ANGRY WITH ME...
SZZT ZT
...YOU SHOULD GET RID OF THIS WALL AND SLAP ME.

SO...
SNAP OUT OF IT!!

Drop 13 The Flowering Sky

GROAR
AAARGHHH!
RR
!
KRRUMP
GIMMY!
ARGHH!
ZWOOSH
PFFT PFFT
THIS IS UNSIGHTLY.
GROARR
THROB
AGH...

YOU CAN HEAR ME.
RIGHT, SORA?
?!
DASH
CALM DOWN, GIMMY.
THIS IS IMPOSSI-BLE FOR HUMAN BEINGS.
HEY!
FAY?
PWOA
GROAR
THIS GIRL IS NOW...
...MY PRECIOUS ALTER EGO.
RR
SHFF
TOO BAD, MASTER.
RR

!!
AGH...
TURN THESE INVADERS INTO FERTILIZER FOR THE FOREST.
COME ON, LITTLE MASTER.
SHFF
...I HAVE NO CHOICE.
I GUESS...
GLARE
ARE YOU GOING TO PLUNGE INTO THE BARRIER?
?!
FAY, THROW ME IN THIS BUBBLE OVER TO SORA!
OKAY!
FWOO
HERE WE GO.
WOO

VROOOOSHHHH
GOOD!
STUPID BOY.

!!
CRACK
VREE
REEE
STAY AWAY!
AH!
POP
AAARRRRGH!
!!
VWOOSH
!

SORA.
!!
SO...
STAY AWAY FROM ME!
SVISH
STAY—
FLINCH
.....!!
TUG
SNATCH
GLUK
GLUK

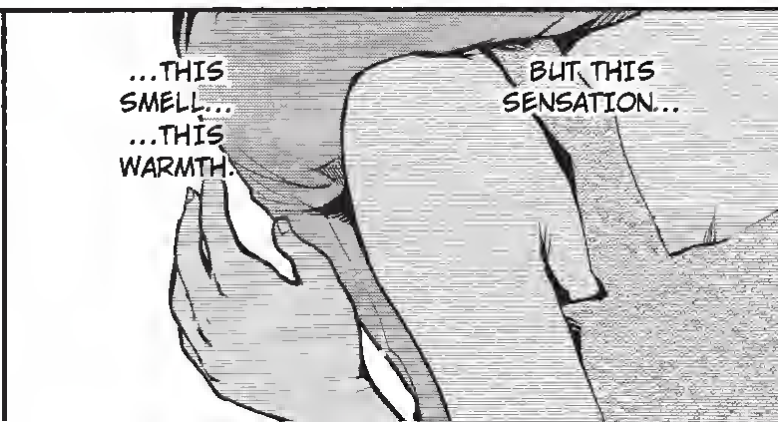
YOU KNOW...
...I HAVEN'T BEEN TAKING YOUR WHIPPINGS FOR NOTHING.
AH!
!
GRAB
YEOW!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
SLAP
GROAR
HEY.
RR
GET OUT OF HERE IF YOU DON'T WANT TO BE EXTERMINATED.
YOU PEST.

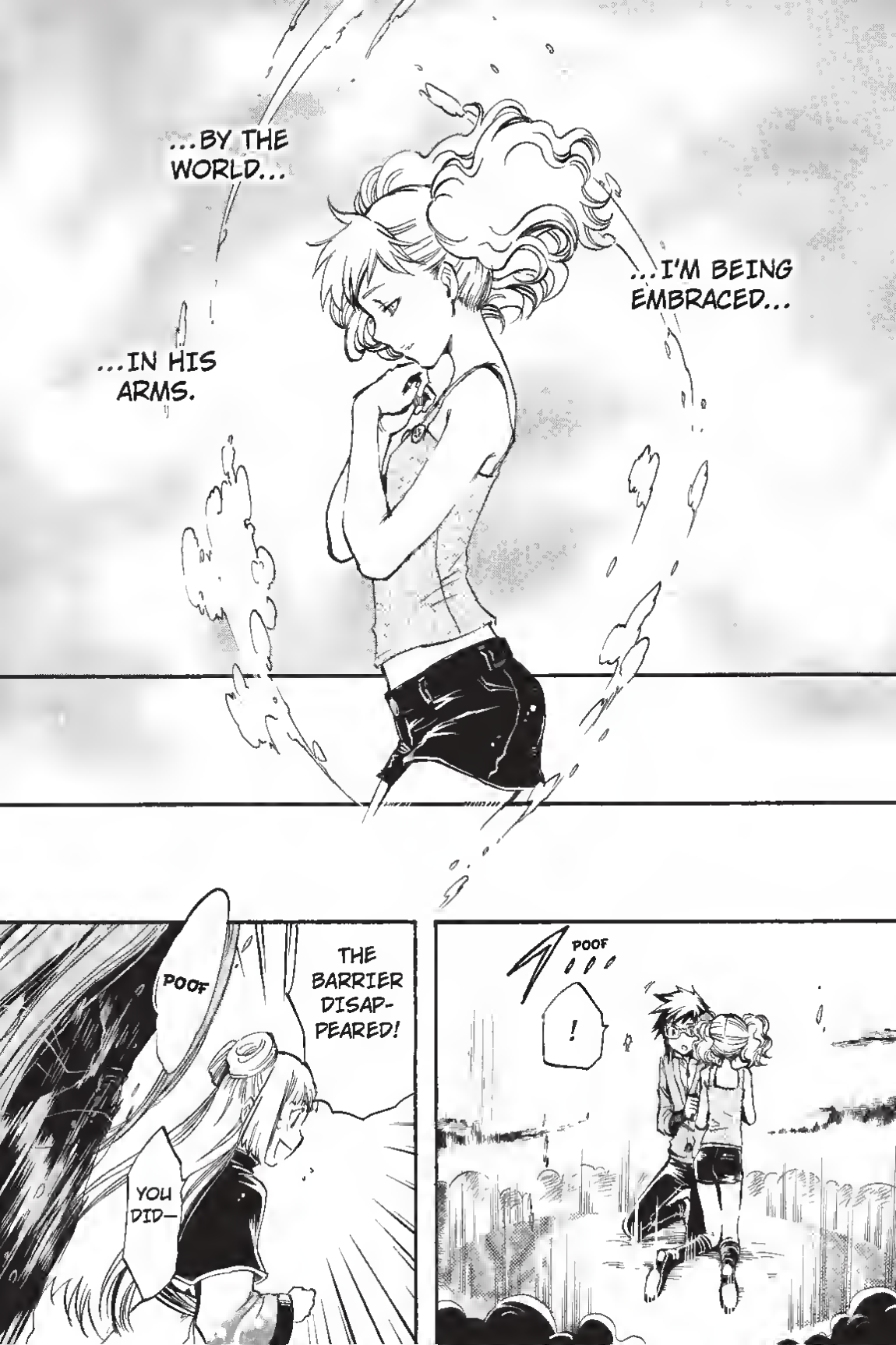
GROAR
I THINK...
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?
RR
!
PFFT!
...WHEN I FIRST MET YOU.
...THAT'S WHAT YOU SAID...
GROAR
I'M GLAD.

...AND THE WORLD WAS FAR AWAY.

ULTIMATELY... I BELIEVED I WAS ALONE...

IT'S AS IF...




...BY THE WORLD...
...I'M BEING EMBRACED...
...IN HIS ARMS.
POOF
THE BARRIER DISAP-PEARED!
YOU DID—
POOF
!

?!
YOU'RE ALL...
REALLY...
...TURNING ME INTO AN OUTCAST.
I'VE GOT A GOOD IDEA.
I SHOULD TAKE YOU INSTEAD OF HER.
FAY!
?
?
WHAT WAS I..?
?!
TOO BAD.
MY POWER!
SHFF
?!
TWITCH

ZWOOOOSH
THIS FOREST IS HISTORY NOW.
GLIMMER
THOSE ARE...
THE CORE!
?!
...REINFORCE-MENTS? NO WAY!
HOW DID THEY GET PAST THE WIND?
PHEW
DARYL MADE IT IN TIME.

HEY, DARYL.
WILL GIMMY AND SORA COME BACK IF WE DO THIS?
SURE.
SO...
...PRAY VERY HARD.
A BURST OF POSITIVE ENERGY FROM VILLAGERS' PRAYERS...
...WAS INJECTED INTO SORA'S POWER CORE IN THIS TREE.
IT MANAGED TO CALM THE WIND.
EVERY-ONE'S...
...PRAYERS?
.....
HUMPH!

?!
THIS NOTORIOUS ANCIENT KING OF DESTRUCTION...
...THE POWER OF OUR KING ALPHA.
POOF
YOU SEEM TO HAVE FORGOTTEN...
?!
WAIT!
...WIPE YOU OUT IN AN INSTANT!
HE WILL...
THAT'S...
TELL ME.

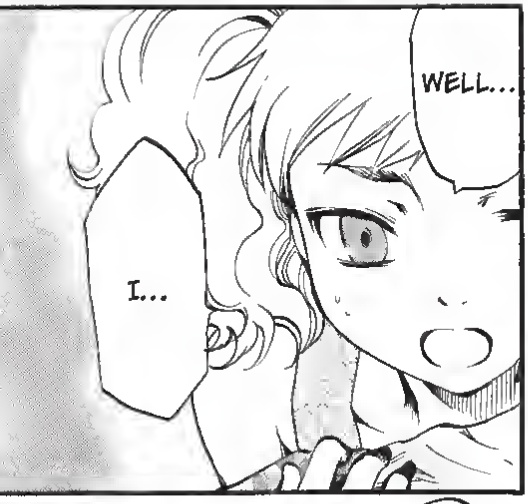
...A DOLL, ISN'T IT?
HUH?
DON'T...
WHAT?
.....
CAN'T YOU HEAR HIM?
DON'T BE RIDICU-LOUS!

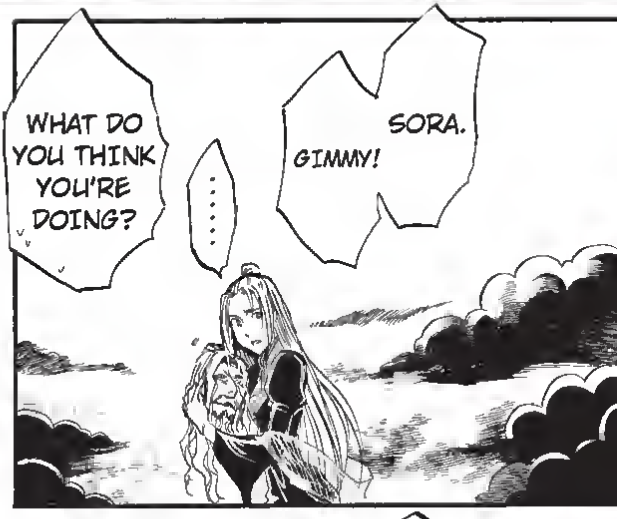
.....
CIEL.
ARE YOU TRYING TO RIDICULE HIM?
HE WAS THE ONLY ONE WHO ACCEPTED ME.
...A DOLL PLAY THAT GOT OUT OF HAND.
SO ALL THIS WAS...
FWOO
...PUT AN END TO THIS NOW.
LET'S...
YOU MUST GET RID OF HER!
BAH
MY KING!
YOUR HIGH-NESS.

SMASH
AH...
SKAKK
MY KING!
BAH
MY KING!
NOOOO!!
YOU HAVE TO FACE THE CONSE-QUENCES.
SHFF
CIEL.

GRAB
HEY!

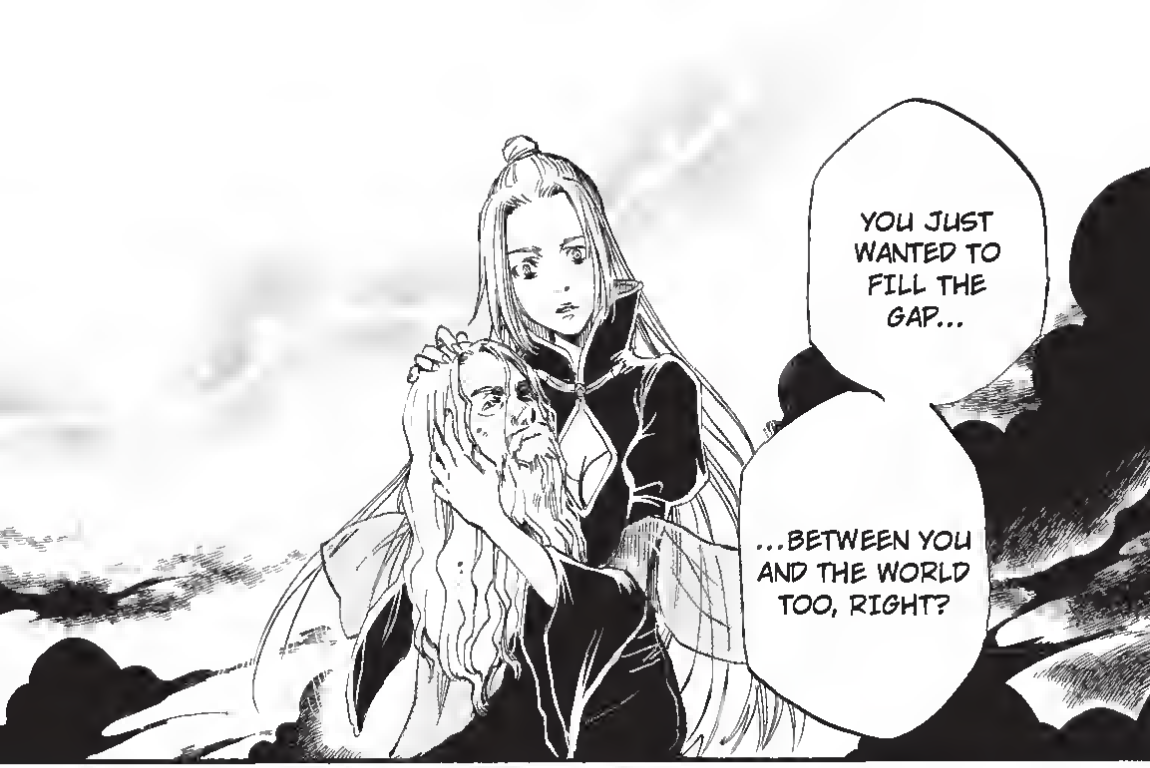
ARE YOU READY—

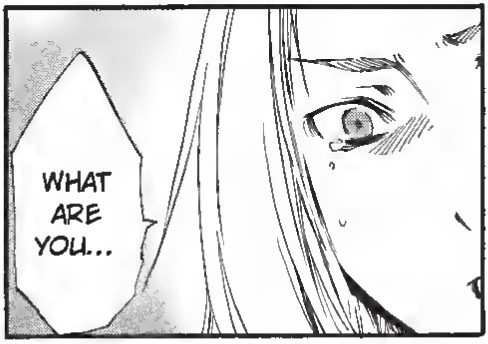

WELL...
I...

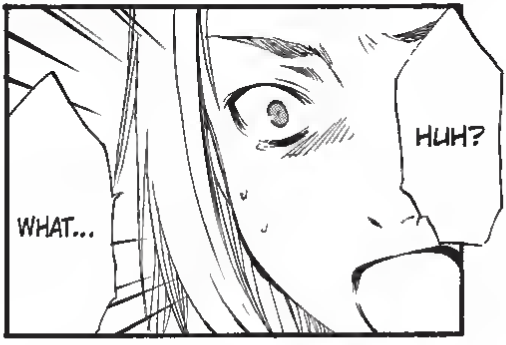

WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING?
GIMMY!
SORA.
.....

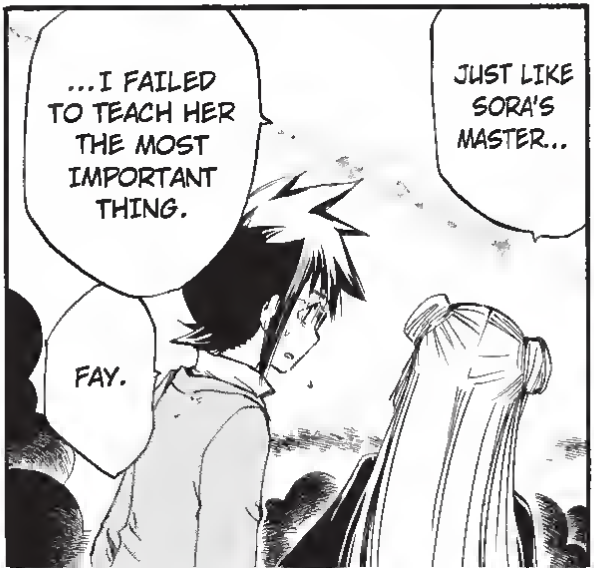
CIEL...

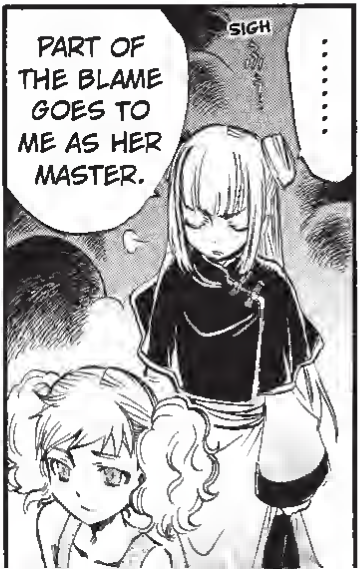
BUT I UNDERSTOOD AFTER THE SYNCHRONIZATION.
I FELT...
...VINDICTIVE TOWARD HER.


YOU JUST WANTED TO FILL THE GAP...
...BETWEEN YOU AND THE WORLD TOO, RIGHT?

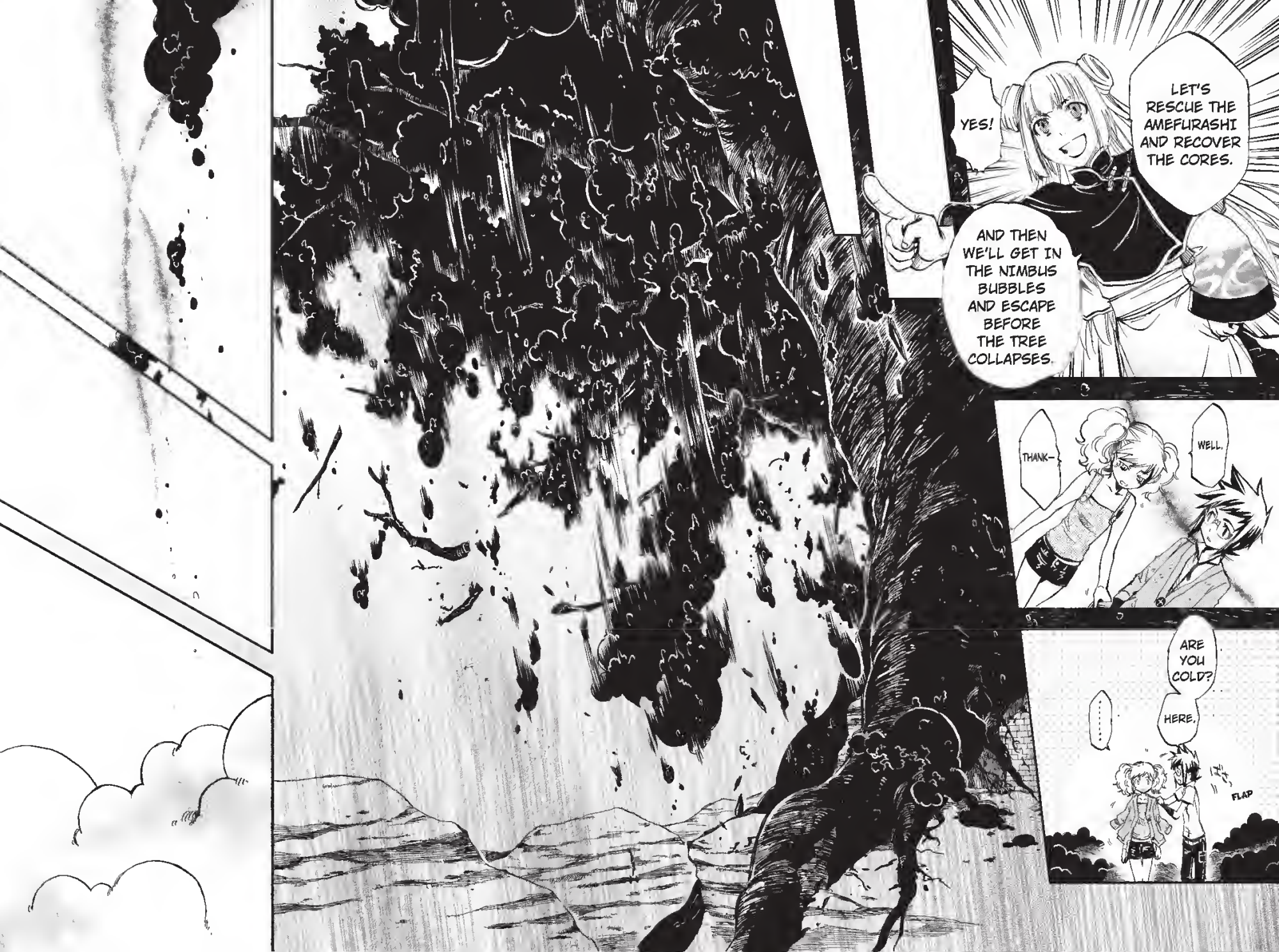

WHAT ARE YOU...

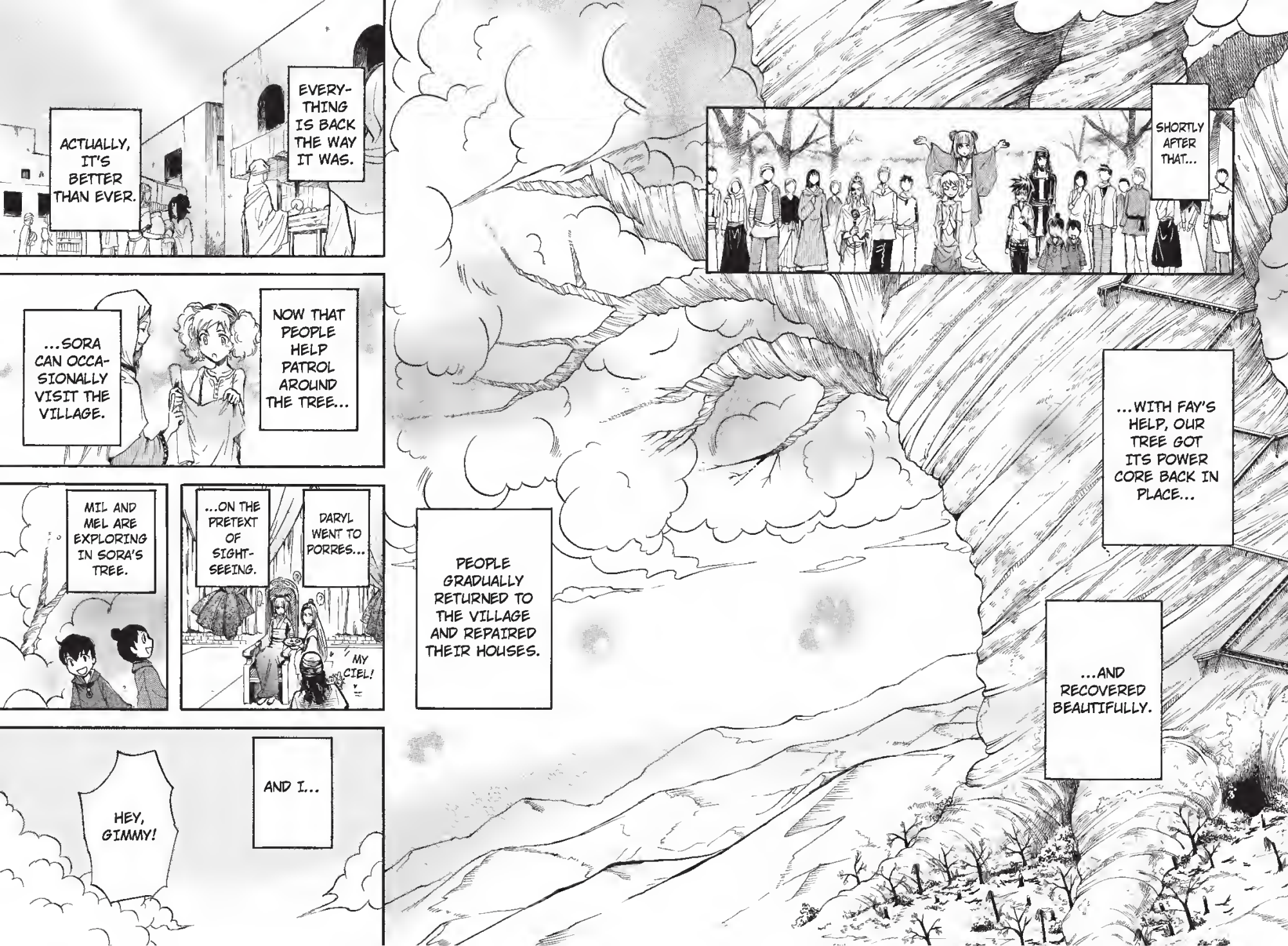

HUH?
WHAT...


...I FAILED TO TEACH HER THE MOST IMPORTANT THING.
JUST LIKE SORA'S MASTER...
FAY.


SIGH
.....
PART OF THE BLAME GOES TO ME AS HER MASTER.

CIEL.
FLINCH
びく
?!
YOU'RE GOING TO RETRAIN UNDER ME.
♡
YOU LEAVE ME NO CHOICE.
SMIRK
I'LL GIVE YOU...
SHIVER
わわ
...A REAL RUN THROUGH THE MILL.
♡
I GUESS... THIS WORKED OUT.
SCOOT
CAPTURE HER, MY MEN!
MWA HA HA
HA HA
YES!
SNATCH
ALL RIGHT.
TUG


LET'S RESCUE THE AMEFURASHI AND RECOVER THE CORES.
YES!
AND THEN WE'LL GET IN THE NIMBUS BUBBLES AND ESCAPE BEFORE THE TREE COLLAPSES.
THANK-
WELL,
ARE YOU COLD?
HERE.
.....
FLAP


ACTUALLY, IT'S BETTER THAN EVER.
EVERY-THING IS BACK THE WAY IT WAS.
SHORTLY AFTER THAT...
...SORA CAN OCCA-SIONALLY VISIT THE VILLAGE.
NOW THAT PEOPLE HELP PATROL AROUND THE TREE...
...WITH FAY'S HELP, OUR TREE GOT ITS POWER CORE BACK IN PLACE...
MIL AND MEL ARE EXPLORING IN SORA'S TREE.
...ON THE PRETEXT OF SIGHT-SEEING.
DARYL WENT TO PORRES...
MY CIEL!
PEOPLE GRADUALLY RETURNED TO THE VILLAGE AND REPAIRED THEIR HOUSES.
...AND RECOVERED BEAUTIFULLY.
AND I...
HEY, GIMMY!

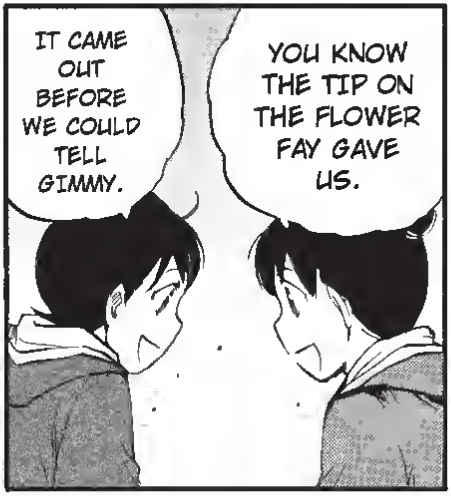
UMPH
WELL...
AS A MATTER OF FACT...
?
YOU NEVER CAME TO HANG OUT WITH ME.
WHAT WERE YOU DOING AT HOME FOR TWO WEEKS?
HUH?
RAH
WOWW!
OH...
.....!
THE KING DOLL INSPIRED ME.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO TAKE SO LONG.
REMEMBER THE DOLLS I PROMISED YOU?

SPANG
YOU IDIOT!
AH.
WHAT?!
YOU...
LISTEN.
?
?
WHY?
UGH!
YOU DON'T GET IT AT ALL.
RIGHT NOW...

SEEING YOU...
...MAKES ME HAPPIER THAN NEW DOLLS!
HAH?!
はあ、
BLUSH
DELAYED RESPONSE
I'M HAPPY WITH THE DOLLS, TOO!
HA HA
BUT...
WH-WH-WHERE DID THAT LINE COME FROM?
IT WAS DARYL'S IDEA, WASN'T IT?
NO, IT WAS FAY'S.
COOL
PANIC
PANIC

THANKS, GIMMY.
OH.
SO PRETTY!
HERE'S ANOTHER FLOWER!
LOOK, MEL.

"A RAINBOW FLOWER WOULD GROW ON A NIMBUS TREE..."
"...JUST WHEN...
...AN AMEFU-RASHI..."


YOU KNOW THE TIP ON THE FLOWER FAY GAVE US.
IT CAME OUT BEFORE WE COULD TELL GIMMY.

...“FALLS IN LOVE!”
I’M NOT SURE. I KNOW!
BUT WHAT IS “LOVE”?
LET’S GO ASK GIMMY AND SORA LATER!
FAY, YOU LIAR!
SWOO

Amefurashi

The End

Afterword

Hi, I'm Suzumi. *Amefurashi* has come to an end at Volume 2. I've only been able to publish this book with a lot of help, and I'm eternally grateful to you.

As the magazine serialization came to an end, I have had many regrets in ways of story and character development, but I'm turning that lack of satisfaction into motivation for my next work.

I have come to realize that, in creating manga, there are always communication problems, but that I can feel just as much satisfaction when it's accomplished. What I wanted to convey to you was that airy mood of accomplishment.

Thank you so much for reading!

August 2007
Atsushi Suzumi

Staff & Help:
Sekine, Hana Hiratoki, Chisa Mori, Ichihara, Inagi Kazamori, Kodama, Nagi Kazekawa

About the Creator

Hi! I'm a manga artist. I'm also an illustrator. I've been drawing since I was in kindergarten, but the first time I picked up a manga pen was in the fourth grade. The manga artists who inspire me are Akira Toriyama and Mutsumi Inomata.

People like to ask me what tools I use, but I'm pretty analog when it comes to drawing manga. I use G pens, maru pens, and pilot ink. But when it comes to color illustrations, I go digital. I scan the inked illustrations and use Painter7 to color them.

I still work hard every day to get better as an artist. There are so many things I can't draw!

Things I like:
Pictures, music, clothes, hats, walking,
and poetry about the four seasons.
Profiles. One-piece dresses.
Winter–I love putting my scarf on!
Cats. Glasses (black-rimmed ones are the best!)
Dandy middle-aged men and old-men characters.
Live music (punk, rock, etc.)
Café au lait. Cute packaging and makeup.
Elegant cafés and coffeehouses.

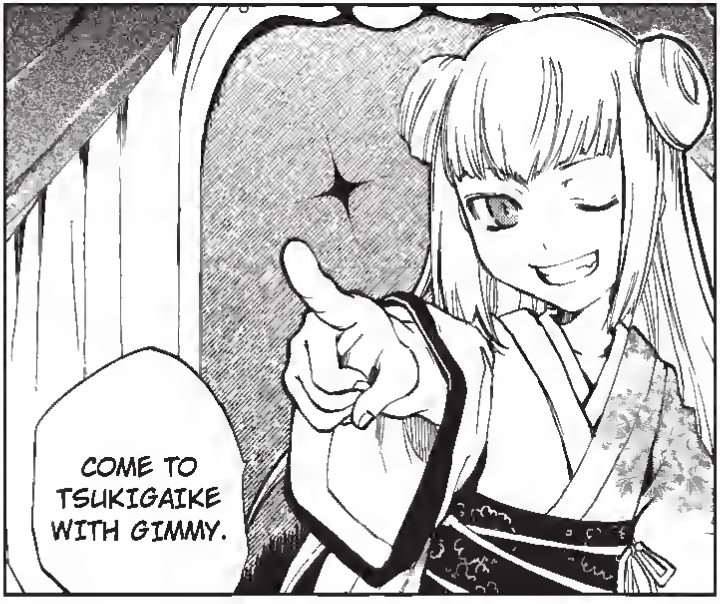
–Atsushi Suzumi

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more art than science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction in our translation of the work, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Amefurashi
Amefurashi, literally translated, means "rain goddess."

Sora
Literally translated, *sora* means "sky" or "heaven."



Tsukigaike, page 79
Tsukigaike means "Moon Lake" in Japanese.